The German Tribune

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EEC unsure over its role in coming talks

No one is really quite sure yet what's supposed to happen when the next round of talks in the current North-South Dialogue takes place in March.

Known officially as the Conference for International Economic Cooperation (CIEC) the talks, to be held in Paris, between the EEC and Third World countries, were begun on the initiative of French Head of State Giscard d'Estaing, and the EEC is one of the eight delegations taking part on behalf of the industrialised West.

President Giscard d'Estaing's basic idea was, with this conference, to secure crude oil supplies for the West, at reasonable prices. *It was thought that this* would have also been to the advantage of the poorer developing countries, whose energy costs were just as high as those of the West.

But the 19 Third World delegations in Paris unanimously stuck to two demands: 1. The setting-up of an "Integrated Raw Materials Fund" which would guarantee prices for 18 items and tropical products even in times of surplus stocks; and 2. That the West abide by its promise made in the early sixties to set aside at least 0.7 per cent of the gross national product annually for development aid to poorer countries.

Two further demands — the writing-off of the 100,000 million dollar debts of the developing countries to the West, and the index-linking of raw material prices to the industrialised states inflation rate — are being pushed by only a few of the Third World countries at present.

*Claude Cheysson, the EEC's Commi*ssioner for Development Policies, has commented that the West in the first year of the Paris talks, alrady seems to have lost sight of its goal of a guaranteed supply of energy in the future.

Instead, Western countries and in particular the Federal Republic and the United States, had allowed themselves to become involved in an ideological struggle over two irritant terms — "New World Economic Order" and "Integrated Raw Materials Fund" — important terms for a united Third World intent on seeking redress for past exploitation.

Cheysson is certain that the EEC Commission soon will have to try to "deblock" the North-South Dialogue. He feels that West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the Federal Economics Minister Hans Friderichs — both proponents of the old "World Market Economy" — are right on three particular points.

The Raw Materials Fund would benefit only a few of the developing countries, and in any case it would not help the biggest and the poorest of these as India; some of the richest industrial *nations such as the US, Canada, Sweden,* Australia, South Africa and indirectly the Soviet Union, would profit from the fund.

It would therefore be folly — to put it bluntly — to throw bananas and manganese all into one and the same "pot" so to speak, quite apart from the fact that it would be technically impossible to keep a huge reserve of perishables on hand to control the market.

On the other hand, politicians would have to realise that, firstly, the developing countries are evidently not going to give up their demands, and secondly an integrated raw materials fund could be cheaper for the West than having a separate price agreement for every single item, because prices for raw materials and tropical products don't vary to the same extent.

Unctad Secretary-General Gamani Corea has already estimated the starting capital of such an integrated fund at 6,000 million dollars.

Negotiations would have to be held *on how much the industrial states and* how much the wealthy oil producing countries would have to contribute, and how the West's profits would be used to help the Third World. Apart from this, the fund is regarded as a price for concessions expected from the developing countries and the oil suppliers at CIEC.

Cheysson is not alone in his belief that the world's economy would get a successful boost if the West were to give the developing countries cash aid now, so as the stimulate demand for capital goods and services from the West, particularly machinery and help in the planning and building of harbours, roads, airports and townships.

The West's economy would certainly gain a fillip if CIEC resulted in agreements being reached for private investment in the developing countries, or for workable cooperative arrangements between state agencies in Third World *countries* and some of the big *multi*national companies.

During the past few months the Federal Republic has stayed discreetly in the background, behind the US, during the EEC Coundil of Ministers' deliberations over the Common Market's stand on CIEC. And during US Vice President Mondale's lightning tour of Western Europe it also became evident that the new US Administration under President Carter has as yet no clear concept regarding its stand toward the North-South *Dialogue*.

Nevertheless, statements in Washington about plans for "international wheat reserves" are already making some EEC members feel uneasy. Because, when it comes to the crunch in the arguments over a new world-wide raw materials policy, American interests and those of Western Europe are totally at variance.

Apart from crude oil, the Americans are self sufficient in practically everything, whereas the EEC countries are not.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 February 1977)

IN THIS ISSUE



Togo's Foreign Minister in Bonn

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher with Togo's Foreign Minister Edem Kodjo in Bonn. Herr Genscher stressed that a racial war in southern Africa could endanger the newly-won independence of this continent. (Photo: dpa)

New tensions follow Helsinki Conference

As anyone could have foretold at the end of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the results of the talks, far from easing tensions would, in fact, bring about new ones.

This is because of the nature of the Helsinki talks at which opposing interests held sway. The Soviet Union would *like to see the political principles of* Helsinki laid down in a solemn pact. It wanted to introduce a new element into East-West relations whereby, the West would have to acknowledge the Soviet Union's concept of human rights.

But the Western countries, especially the smaller neutral States, were more concerned with an agreement guaranteeing the free and unfettered exchange of ideas, information, and people across the frontiers.

When both sides consider the Hel*sinki statement of intent from their own* viewpoint, it was to be expected that differences between the two parties would become more apparent.

It is no coincidence that this stage has now been reached. Firstly, there is the Belgrade follow-up conference due to take place shortly. Secondly, since Helsinki there have been hardly any substantial further agreements between East and West. Thirdly, however, the human rights movement — which is of course of particular interest to the West — has suddenly developed of its own accord in the East bloc.

So, naturally, we immediately have tension, and this time to such an extent that the new Washington Administration has declared that it will not compromise its resolutions for the safeguarding of human rights merely to get a new political agreement with Moscow.

The fact that the problem of Berlin is *again in the foreground is an infallible* sign of this tension. Moscow is again raising questions about the divided city, including the touchy one of air traffic.

Moscow wants to remind the West that the Four-Power Agreement is part and parcel of the process which led to the European Security Conference, which it had hoped would satisfy its demands. So now the whole question of East-West relations has to be looked at afresh.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 19 February 1977)

■ EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Euro-Communists show a milder side

Kieler Nachrichten

Emilio Segre, leading light in the Italian Communist Party, is in the news on two counts at present. Firstly he kissed a lady's hand at the headquarters of the Western European Union in Paris.

Not much to be concerned about, one might say. But the lady in question was highly embarrassed because the Italian gentleman was, after all, a Communist. And this amused her colleagues at the Palais d'Iona.

Segre who is regarded as the "foreign minister" to Enrico Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party, also made news by being chosen to report on a delicate matter – the consequences of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He was elected unanimously by the WEU political committee which deals with European defence.

The Final Act which was signed by the heads of 33 European States, the EEC, USA and Canada in July, 1975, in the Finnish capital, deals mainly with the question of human rights.

When a colleague asked Segre if he would "adequately" acknowledge the repressions in the Soviet Union and the East bloc, he replied that he respected human rights and would expose any infringements in the East bloc in his report.

The document, which is expected to be a bit of a surprise because of its author's political leanings, will be ready by the middle of June. Not only democrats are puzzled by Segre, the Communist. A fellow party member, secretary of the fishermen's union in Marseilles, commented: "I already know that you people in the WEU are imperialists and cold war warriors. But this Italian dancer with his antics, that's rubbish".

But Euro-Communists are all different. Apart from the Italians, observers also believe the Spanish Communists under Santiago Carillo have democratic leanings, although the Spanish Communist Party gets twenty-five per cent of its cash from Moscow, and another twenty-five per cent from Rome and Begrade, each year. Which seems to make their complete allegiance to the Communist cause somewhat doubtful.

Segre's kiss and his avowed respect for human rights is not all. There are other examples.

Italian Communists are regarded as hard and loyal workers in the EEC. In contrast to the French Communists, the Italians, for example support the West German co-determination principle in industry.

The mixture of worker and entepreneurial functions doesn't seem to worry these Marxists unduly, although this means that the class struggle is somewhat weakened. That's why the French Communists oppose it. Could one already describe the Italians as followers of a new philosophy to follow that of Marx?

It is because of these differences, probably, that the European Unions Federation, under the presidency of the head of the German Council of Trades Unions, Heinz Oskar Vetter, does not want the French unions to be affiliated until 1978.

To date the CGT, the biggest group of unions in France, has rejected majority rulings in the European Trade Unions Federation. But this does not suit the affiliated union councils including Italy's Communist CGIL which is the only one without a liberal history, nor the CGT which is part of the Soviet-led World Council of Unions with headquarters in Prague.

But alertness is called for. Recently in Düsseldorf there was a conference at which a joint strategy was worked out by West European Communist Parties in their fight against the multi-national companies. They decided to set up an agency to gather and collate data for use in industrial action and coordinated strikes. The Italian as well as the French Parties took part.

Now they have even infiltrated Nato. A recent information session behind closed doors for Parliamentarians from the member States was attended by an Italian Communist, another one had said he couldn't come, while a French one had only days before been elected to a parliamentary committee.

Nato continues to distrust the West European Communists. The flow of information about defence budgets became a mere trickle at the Brussels meeting. An inspection programme originally aimed at giving European Parliamentarians an insight into America's defence setup next month, has been shortened by half because Washington expects Communists to be taking part.

Obviously this means that the statesmen who are responsible for enxtensives budgets will miss out on some much-needed information.

When one knows that the two Italian Communists with support from the Christian Democrats were allowed to take part, while the French Communists' successful bid was backed by all French MPs from Gaullists to Socialists, then one can understand the comment by the committee's chairman, Conservative Julian Critchley of Britan whose explanation was: "They're getting tired."

Hermann Bohle

(Kieler Nachrichten, 18 February 1977)

Dilemma for Bonn over nuclear deal with Brazil

An ominous cloud hangs over the Federal Republic's relations with the United States at present – a type of political "fallout" over West Germany's agreement to export nuclear technology to Brazil.

It's not merely the question of a ten thousand million deutschmark project being in jeopardy, with the consequent loss of thousands of jobs and a giant investment programme becoming worthless.

This type of thinking appears almost provincial compared with the very real danger of a serious policy conflict between Bonn and the new Administration in Washington.

There were already signs of disagreement before the Presidential elections, but Bonn had reckoned on Gerald Ford's re-election, and had hoped that some sort of agreement on the deal would be reached without endangering relations between the two countries.

As far as the agreement with Brazil was concerned Bonn could point out quite rightly that it had abided strictly by the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, which it had ratified, and that Washington had raised no real objections.

On the basis of this, there was every possibility for joint, constructive considerations in the future. Because there is no denying the fact that technological development since the Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed has rather weakened the Treaty and has increased the danger of an uncontrolled spread of atomic weapons – a danger which could not be foreseen at the time.

But Bonn would not dream of doing anything secretly to further this process.

President Carter's missionary zeal, and his Administration's clumsiness have led to a sharpening of the conflict. Carter is giving the impression that his policy aims are a justification for ignoring a correctly-arrived-at agreement between one of his major allies in Europe and a third country.

Brazil, on the other hand, sees a challenge to its prestige and this has added an emotional overtone to discussions on the project.

In any case, the Federal Republic sees itself under pressure from various sides, without having any concrete counter-proposals from Washington.

The Brazil project would have far-reaching benefits for the German nuclear industry. The uncertainty over the fate of the project cannot be allowed to go on too long, particularly from Brazil's point of view.

But even worse for Bonn than losing the business, would be the odium attached to the breaking of a contract. On the other hand, there is no calculating the consequences of a really serious conflict with the US. So Bonn might be faced with no alternative but to cancel the agrement.

Nevertheless, President Carter may still have second thoughts about sticking to a tough stand, in view of his country's policies. He runs the danger of having the US labelled anew as a "world policeman", even if only in the guise of a moralist.

Maybe the President needs more than just two visits by a top-politician from Bonn – no matter how well-qualified – to show him the dangerous path he is treading.

Hans Schmitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 February 1977)

Schmidt-Brezhnev Summit delay

Although it need not necessarily be autumn before Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt meet in Bonn, there has already been some delay in organising the summit which was agreed on last summer.

Following the start of a new Administration in Washington, the date of the Summit between the West German and Soviet leaders was going to be governed by the planned conference of Western heads of state with President Carter in May, and Carter's own meeting with the Soviet party leader this coming summer.

The question now is whether the Brezhnev-Schmidt talks will be held before, during or after the other planned meetings.

But there is a further problem. In Bonn there seems to be no agreement as to what the actual talks agenda should include. The Foreign Office tends to think that a meeting with Brezhnev would serve some purpose only in the light of new impulses towards German-Soviet cooperation in the spirit of the Helsinki Conference.

This would include the signing of the practically-ratifiable treaty over scientific and technical cooperation, which has been stalemated by the question of including Berlin, something which Bonn wants. Therefore, Bonn would like Moscow to drop its objections to the inclusion of Berlin.

But Chancellor Schmidt is nevertheless in favour of a meeting with Brezhnev, even if there is no immediate hope of the agreement or a similar pact being signed. He does not place much store by formal pact-signing policies, would therefore be able to avoid new strife over Berlin, and believes that a general exchange of ideas between Bonn and Moscow would be useful.

At the same time Schmidt would like to see an early and continuing exchange of ideas between Bonn and Moscow, considering the fact that in some respects it is not yet clear what initiatives President Carter plans on his trip to Moscow.

This is considered particularly important because of the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks following a possible second SALT agreement on arms cuts. The date for a visit to Bonn by Brezhnev also depends on negotiations between Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 16 February 1977)

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■ POLITICS

The Opposition in Bonn seems to be losing its drive



The Opposition in Bonn is suffering from a bad dose of disillusionment and disquiet at the moment. For the third time running it has lost a Bundestag election. For seven years it hs had to sit back and watch while others lead the country. And those seven years look like running into eleven years.

The Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions' leaders who were in power up to Autumn 1969 have grown old. Those who took over responsibility are getting fairly long in the tooth now, too, – and there are still no signs of a CDU/CSU come-back.

Politicians generally want to make their mark with actions rather than mere words. But now a lot of Opposition membes have as much as they can do to fight against this feeling of resignation – which is often more up-hill work than battling against the Social and Free Democratic Coalition.

The only effective cure for this is political work that the Opposition can get its teeth into and that will keep it on its toes.

But the split-up of the CDU and Bavaria's CSU has held up progress considerably in this respect. Patching up the rift has cost both parties valuable time and energy.

Furthermore Opposition leader Helmut Kohl apparently still needs some time to find his feet in Bonn. More than a few Opposition MPs are beginning to have serious doubts as to Herr Kohl's ability to overcome his weaknesses as a leader. At the moment his speeches still lack the rhetorical power expected of an Opposition leader.

This may improve when he gets round to becoming more embroiled in the more important political issues in Bonn. But all the same, dissatisfaction within the party cannot alone account for all the speculation that is rife among CDU and CSU members at present.

When is Kurt Biedenkopf, recently resigned secretary general of the CDU, going to make another move? Or is Alfred Dregger perhaps waiting for his grand opportunity? Might Rainer Barzel make a return as CDU part chairman? And how many would like to have Karl Carstens back as Parliamentary Party Leader?

There are a few ready to pounce on Helmut Kohl already. The CDU/CSU seems to be developing a dangerous habit of simply dispensing with leaders whom they feel do not come up to scratch and do not win the acclaim of all.

Every time there have been perfectly adequate reasons. But it is beginning to develop into a mania in which the CDU/CSU apparently believes that a change of its front line will make the right policies suddenly emerge as if out of a hat.

Obviously this sort of Henry VIII act is not going to get the Opposition very far. What is needed is sheer hard work. It ought to be a matter of course that the Opposition attacks the Government where it best knows the lie of the land and where it itself knows what it wants.

But even this seems to be asking too much – another drop of vinegar in the cup for a lot of Christian Democrat and Christian Social members.

The Social and Free Democratic Coalition is now working at shortening or even abolishing life sentences for murder. The CDU/CSU however will hear nothing of it and knows perfectly well that it has the main bulk of public opinion behind it. But it is still not do anything about it.

The education policy in North Rhine-Westphalia is likewise getting many parents' back up. But the Bonn Opposition seems unaware of the chance it has to open fire and get down to some serious Opposition work.

It opened the second debate on the Government's policy statement not with a speech on the loaded subject of East and West German relations as might have been expected, but with a lecture on Europe.

And it is only after considerable hesitation that the Opposition has finally started to get its heads together over its pensions and value added tax policies.

Somehow the Opposition seems to often, at the moment, to give the impression it either does not know what it wants or thinks or at any rate is not prepared to commit itself by speaking out.

"Inadequate leadership" – the diagnosis most often heard these days – does not get to the root of the Opposition's malaise.

The CDU/CSU's wishy-washy programme is the result of long disagreement over the tactics it should adopt to make sure it gets back to power.

After the defeat in the October election there are seemingly only a few Christian Democrat and Christian Social leaders who still believe it will be possible to gain an absolute majority.

Because of this some politicians from both Opposition parties are in favour of experimentally forming a coalition with a fourth party – and it need not be a nation-wide Christian Social Union.

But how such an experiment could be carried out without either destroying the CDU/CSU or losing the electorate's confidence is still a mystery to all.

Lower Saxony premier Ernst Albrecht (CDU) and his Minister of Finance Walther Leisler Kiep are all in favour of a lasting political union with the Free Democrats. They have already formed such a coalition with the FDP in Lower Saxony in the hope that Bonn might follow suit eventually.

Their decisiveness and apparent immunity to all public criticism strongly suggest that they have taken this step with Helmut Kohl's full backing.

But before such an union can really work on a national level the FDP left wing would have to become very much weaker. And in the past few months it has done precisely the opposite.

What is more, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Economics Minister Hans Friderichs (FDP) have yet to be convinced that they would have more public support in a coalition with the CDU than in the present coalition with the SPD.

And thirdly the CDU would have to be strong enough to cast aside some of its basic principles and yet retain its voters.

Herr Kohl must be aware of all this. At the moment all eyes are turned on him to see what he will do.

Johann Georg Reissmüller

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 February 1977)

Conflict over Helmut Kohl's cautious line for CDU Conference

The Christian Democratic Press Office recently issued a statement saying that CDU Chairman Dr Helmut Kohl and Christian Democratic Party leaders had met in Bonn "to discuss the political situation and preparations for the 25th Federal conference of the CDU."

But the laconic announcement made no mention of the hefty set-to that went on between Matthias Wissmann, Federal leader of the Young Union (the party's youth organisation) and Party Chairman Helmut Kohl, over the proposed discussion of this country's relations with the GDR.

Herr Wissmann said in principle the Young Union had nothing against the topic being introduced, but strongly opposed the "philosophical" nature of the planned discussion.

He went on to say that the CDU was understandably hesitant about becoming too involved in controversial issues and discussions after its temporary rift with the Christian Social Union. But he pointed out that CDU supporters and members were growing tired of waiting for their party to take a definite political stand.

Outraged, Herr Kohl replied in no uncertain terms that he would not tolerate such lectures. But he must be aware that after the agenda was printed and sent out to the local party branches and organisations only the relative "small fry" applied for the eight hundred mandates to the approaching conference.

The only thing of any interest at all during the first day of the conference is a speech by Herr Kohl and the election of CDU party leaders.

But even this election is completely lacking in excitement and interest since the outcome is more or less a foregone conclusion.

The seven posts will in all probability go to Hans Katzer, Gerhard Stoltenberg, Hans Filbinger, Kurt Biedenkopf, Heinrich Köppler, Alfred Dregger and Hanna Neumeister. And the Young Union will not be trying to shake this finely balanced team by putting up Herr Wissmann as candidate.

The second day of the conference will be taken up with what Herr Kohl regards as the most important item – "our responsibilities to Germany" – relations between the GDR and the Federal Republic.

Theodor Schober, president of *Diakonisches Werk*, a church organisation, will be speaking on "Leading a Christian Life in the GDR." And Geneva Professor of Politics Gasteyer will be lecturing on "the role of the GDR in Socialism."

By making this part of the conference deliberately academic Herr Kohl hopes to prevent a general discussion of the East-West German political situation developing.

This, in his view, would simply constitute a rehash of everything that CDU *Ostpolitik* experts like Manfred Abelein, Herbert Czaja, and Werner Marx have already said.

He also hopes that the speakers he has chosen – who, to say the least are not in favour of widening the gap between the two states – will help put across a new CDU image as regards the GDR policy.

This would help, considerably in the CDU's attempts at rapprochement with the Free Democratic Party.

But others in the CDU – not just the Young Unionists – feel it is more important to concentrate on more pressing political issues.

Since Herr Kohl, as the party's new chairman, has still not come up with a suitably strong Opposition policy they feel that the Düsseldorf conference should be used to work out some definite CDU policies towards urgent political questions.

These include issues such as unemployment, energy, pensions, cutting the costs of national health insurance, reforming the civil service, the decree excluding political extremists from civil service jobs which is causing some concern now, the party policy towards public demonstrations and other public efforts, pollution, the North-South dialogue and detente.

Herr Kohl, however, is determined not to let these subjects come up in detail. He simply wants a general resolution passed by the party leaders placing responsibility for working out the relevant political details in specialist conferences and party commissions.

Nevertheless the Young Union's attitude is spreading and in order to satisfy party followers and members delegates will be allowed a general debate on topics to be proposed by members at the conference, as well as a debate on the policy towards the GDR in which delegates will be able to take part.

"At least this conference will give more time to discussions than is normally the case" said Wissmann, pleased with this decision. But as far as Herr Kohl is concerned the compromise that is being offered at the Düsseldorf conference may simply turn out to be an opportunity for the CDU's political opponents to mock.

On the one hand the half-prepared discussion of domestic political problems can bring more internal dissension and disagreement to light than Herr Kohl would like to see.

On the other the discussion of this country's relations with the GDR could be filled with old familiar arguments that could well be harmful to the CDU's attempts at coming closer to the FDP.

Hans Peter Schütz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 February 1977)

■ TELEVISION

Tussle over Teletext, the newspaper on the TV screen

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Television viewers do not know it yet, but this country's three traditional channels have been augmented by a fourth which has been operating for some time.

The reason that TV viewers are unaware of this fourth channel is because it can only be received by a specially equipped TV set. But even those few people who own such sets see nothing but a jumble of letters and figures when pressing the button "Teletext".

Teletext is a new form of telecommunications for news and information around which a tug-of-war has developed between publishers' associations, ministries and the TV networks, as well as the political parties in this country.

The questions involved in this tug-of-war are as basic as: Who owns this new form of information dissemination? Is the material broadcast to be categorised as television because it appears on a screen? Or is it a newspaper because the material transmitted is written, though distributed electronically? Or is Teletext an entirely new medium, a combination of television and newspaper which both de facto and de jure still has to find its niche in our media structure?

The discussion about the TV newspaper Teletext gained a new dimension a few weeks ago when the TV networks decided to present the system to the public at the Berlin telecommunications exhibition next August.

This was indeed a surprise move since the networks had repeatedly stated that they were not interested in the broadcasting of Teletext (also known as Videotext, Ceefax or Oracle).

The *Bundesverband Deutscher Zeitungsverleger*, BDZV, (Federal Association of German Newspaper Publishers) reacted to this surprise move by announcing that it, too, would present a Teletext programme at the Berlin fair. The programme will be edited and presented by a joint editorial office of Berlin's dailies. Incidentally, BDZV had last year already presented a simulated Teletext programme in Berlin.

There is every possibility that the present tug-of-war will develop into a bone of contention for three rather than two parties. For the *Bundespost* (this country's Postal Authority) is toying with the idea of introducing a type of TV newspaper to be known as "Viewdata".

While in the case of Teletext the transmitted signal would ride piggy-back fashion on the normal TV broadcast, which means that it would need no separate channel, Viewdata would be transmitted via the telephone system.

In the case of Teletext, the owner of a TV set equipped to receive this new form of information would have an instrument with a number of buttons (similar to a pocket calculator) which would enable him to choose approximately 100 pages of written text. These pages will remain visible on the screen until the viewer turns the page electronically.

In the case of Viewdata, however, the subscriber to the system dials a computerised information storage on his telephone. This is then transmitted to his television screen within seconds. But in this case the subscriber has to pay the fee for the line. The Viewdata subscriber would have the advantage of having information available to him 24 hours a daay while Teletext is only available during normal TV broadcasting times.

But on the other hand the broadcasting capacity of Viewdata is considerably smaller than that of Teletext because every number dialled provides about 15 screen pages as opposed to 100 in the case of Teletext.

As a result of these specific peculiarities of the two systems Viewdata is intended to provide highly specialised information while Teletext is of a more general nature.

The development of Teletext and Viewdata has progressed furthest in Britain.

Since the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) began its experimental broadcasts on 23 September 1974 (initially on a small scale) the number of pages offered has been increasing steadily.

Today BBC broadcasts between 100 and 200 pages of "Ceefax" daily, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) broadcasts 30 pages of "Oracle" and the British Post Office transmits about 20 pages of Viewdata.

the programme contains all information which subscribers have hitherto been able to obtain from newspapers or the telephone information service, such as weather forecasts, football pools, stock exchange quotations, information on traffic conditions, market reports, cooking recipes, news and generally a total of 36 categories of information. But the broadcasts also include such things as jokes, puzzles and games.

Says Colin McIntyre, editor-in-chief of Ceefax in London: "We offer comprehensive information, in other owrds our subscriber only has to ask his TV set and he receives the desired information on the spot."

After a two-year testing period, the Home Office recently licensed the BBC to transmit Ceefax-Teletext. The Teletext system is to undergo further development to include local and regional items within the framework of a 10-year plan. In the end some 50 per cent of the information transmitted is to be of a local character. Special techniques are to make it possible to transmit up to 2,000 pages per channel. Now, two years after experimental broadcasts began, Britain has between 500 and 1,000 TV sets equipped with the necessary decoders. The sets cost between 3,000 and 5,000 deutschmarks each at present. Since virtually all manufacturers of TV sets are interested in Teletext decoders it is expected that prices will drop this year. According to Texas Instruments, the largest manufacturer of decoders, it is expected that the price of the units will drop to between 100 and 120 US dollars by mid-1977, diminishing to 50 dollars in the following two years. Such price slides, experts say, would guarantee mass sales of decoders.

Under the circumstances, BBC estimates of 50,000 Teletext subscribers in Britain alone in 1978 appear quite feasible.

In order to meet the decoder requirements of our broadcasting corporations at the forthcoming Berlin show, manufacturers agreed to equip a certain number of sets produced by them accordingly. This means that some 500 sets suitable for Teletext reception will be available in this country by August.

While the industry is busy producing the sets, our TV networks and their technical departments are assessing test broadcasts. At the same time the BDZV is doing its best to remain in the running notwithstanding the imbalance of power.

The BDZV is engaged in a war on several fronts. To start with, it is confronted with the difficult task of convincing newspaper publishers (especially the small ones) that they, too, are directly affected by the new developments.

For it is especially these small publishers who will feel the pinch once the new medium becomes a competitor by assuming the role of a newspaper.

They will have to realise, for instance, that their stock market quotations are obsolete considering the fact that the Teletext subscriber gets this information red-hot from the stock exchange floor. The same applies where results of sporting events are concerned.

Things will be even worse for the newspaper publishers once Teletext begins transmitting local news and perhaps even classified advertisements for used cars and similar items.

In other word, the screen newspaper will be a full-fledged newspaper in the conventional sense, thus depriving publishers of their market opportunities.

But even should publishers for survival reasons decide to participate in the new medium, they are not permitted to do so at present for legal reasons. Due to a much-disputed interpretation of the term "broadcasting", the dissemination of a screen newspaper falls under the monpoly of the broadcasting companies.

This is due to an omission on the part of the publishers who failed to insist on a legal definition of the term "press" within the framework of privately-owned media, which would have enabled them to make use of electronic distribution of information — especially if this information is disseminated in a form similar to that of a newspaper.

In order to be able to compete with the broadcasting corporations at the Berlin fair, BDZV applied to the state of Berlin for a special permit to present a screen newspaper.

But this will necessitate a certain amount of coordination with the other

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New weekly magazine

"Leute" (People) is a new weekly magazine in West Germany which has as its declared aim "to write about people as they really are". The first issue has a report on Queen Elizabeth ("The Queen without her Crown. Mornings in bed she reads the sporting pages and in the evening she watches Kojak on TV"), by an English Sunday paper magazine writer. It also includes articles by Francoise Sagan on Juliette Greco and Willy Brandt on Olof Palme.

■ INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

Gains in negotiations must not be jeopardised



Berlin, *Ostpolitik* and *Deutschlandpolitik* are so many-faceted and controversial that they give rise to constant disputes — not only between Government and Opposition, but also within the Coalition itself.

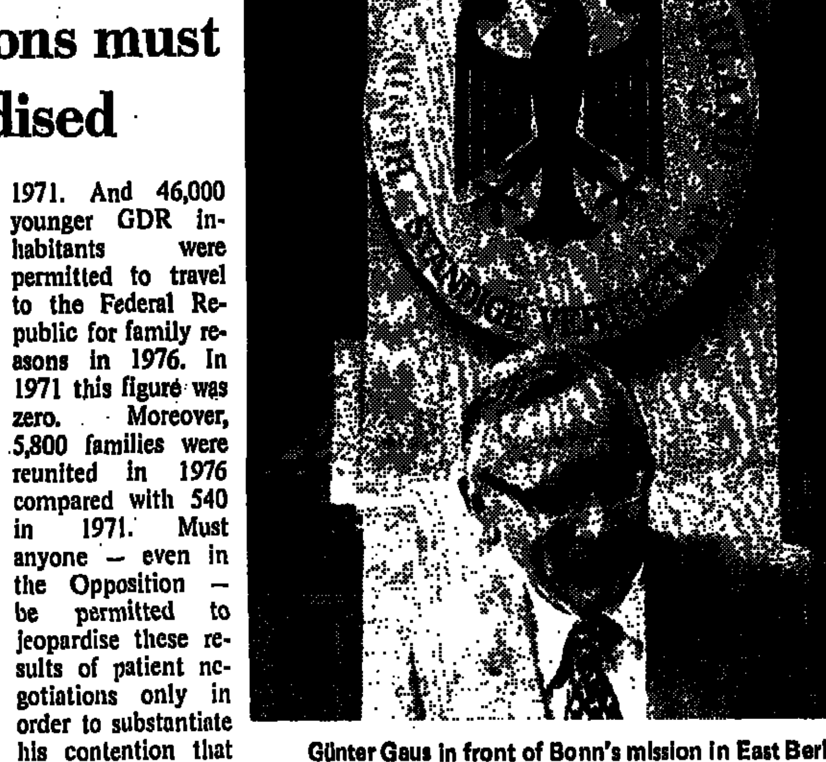
For the same reason these topics also entail the danger that the interests of the people concerned are neglected or indeed damaged in the course of the political tug-of-war. Alas, this is a fact of life we have to live with, but we must nevertheless try to restrict its negative effects as much as possible.

Recent Berlin events — ranging from the GDR's verbal attack on Bonn's Mission in East Berlin to the controversial *Spiegel* (this country's leading news magazine) interview with Günter Gaus, Bonn's plenipotentiary in East Berlin — have led to a situation in which the implacable, the timid, the impatient and, last but not least, the jurists who view politics from a purely legal angle no longer see the forest for the irksome trees.

The Paris daily *Le Monde* defined that which might be termed the forest in this context, saying that until very recently we spoke of the "Germans from the two Germanies" but now we once more have to speak of "The Germany of Germans".

The reason given goes as follows: Some ten million West Germans travelled to the GDR in 1976. This is four times as many as in 1971. In the same year, 1976, there were 16 million telephone conversations between the two Germanies, while in 1971 there were virtually none.

At least 1.4 million East German pensioners visited the Federal Republic legally in 1976 as opposed to 100,00 in 1971. And 46,000 younger GDR inhabitants were permitted to travel to the Federal Republic for family reasons in 1976. In 1971 this figure was zero. Moreover, 5,800 families were reunited in 1976 compared with 540 in 1971. Must anyone — even in the Opposition — be permitted to jeopardise these results of patient negotiations only in order to substantiate his contention that the policy which brought about such results has failed? Even if this question is answered in the negative, the ways and means of securing these results must remain open to discussion.



Günter Gaus in front of Bonn's mission in East Berlin
(Photo: dpa)

But when the Opposition attacks the Government, bombarding it with questions, it must pay heed to a number of other facts as well: The new American Administration will pursue the arms limitation issue and press for a settlement in the course of this year still.

It would like to get a second Salt Agreement on the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons signed, sealed and delivered and provide new impulses for the Vienna MBFR talks on troop reductions in Europe. The American hawks will be unable to change these facts, and the same applies to their Soviet counterparts.

At the same time, Jimmy Carter will try to get it across to the Soviets that the United States wants to see human rights upheld in the East bloc as well. Moreover, America's new President will be much more meticulous in assessing the results of Helsinki at the Belgrade follow-up conference than his predecessor would have been.

US Secreatry of State Cyrus Vance will air all these issues during his forthcoming visit to Moscow.

In view of all this, it would be very bad indeed of Leonid Brezhnev were to cancel his envisaged visit to Bonn because he considers it pointless.

Considerations of this nature, with Berlin in mind (which remains a bone of contention in East-West relations) might have induced Herr Gaus to make his controversial statement in the *Spiegel* interview.

With the intimations made in this interview Herr Gaus probably wanted to induce the GDR to drop its reservations and objections vis-avis Bonn's present policy while at the same time encouraging the Coalition to continue on this path.

The Federal Government should follow in his footsteps, and it should do so cautiously, but undaunted — even by the Opposition.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 February 1977)

Günter Gaus, a man of caution

Though cautious, Günter Gaus, Bonn's man in East Berlin, is anything but backward about coming forward.

But his controversial *Spiegel* interview (he was formerly editor-in-chief of this prestigeous news magazine) was not given without his having covered his retreat. Herr Gaus obtained his reinsurance from the obvious quarter, namely the Chancellory.

Though it is true that he might have made somewhat excessive use of the scope of action granted to him, the criticism he had to put up with from friend and foe alike can only be termed hypocritical. For this criticism is levelled against the messenger and not his master. It speaks in favour of both that the latter did not drop him despite massive demands from the Opposition that this be done.

And in fact, all the cautious Günter Gaus did was to put question marks behind two all-German taboos, namely the nationality question and the border problem.

The views of the two German states on these issues are so diamtrically opposed that they were not included in the 1973 "Basic Treaty" governing relations between the two Germanies.

The normalisation of relations which, though for different reasons, both countries strive for must not remain unrealised only because the two parties maintain fundamentally opposed standpoints in the question of German unity.

At the time the Basic Treaty was signed both Germanies had to relinquish basic political tenets. Bonn relinquished its claim to sole representation, while East Berlin de facto adopted the West German thesis of "special relations" between the two Germanies, including the GDR's inhabitants' potential claim to West German citizenship.

For the sake of gaining world-wide recognition as a sovereign nation, the GDR thus accepted a flaw in its sovereignty so to speak. For every GDR citizen is automatically and without special naturalisation procedures also a citzen of the Federal Republic of Germany, provided he manages to reach West German territory.

This is a most irksome fact for a state which must by means of force prevent its citizens from availing themselves of this right en masse.

It is therefore only a natural objective of GDR policy to remedy this state of affairs while Bonn is Constitution-bound to uphold it.

Günter Gaus has always abided by these basic tenets of Bonn's policy. But at the same time it is his job to facilitate the lives of the people affected as much as possible.

And in this job he is constantly hampered by the citizenship obstacle. Without it, Herr Gaus would obviously find it a great deal easier to achieve his aims.

In a particularly frosty phase of German-German relations, at a time when sovereignty strategists in the East and reunification dogmatists in this country are jeopardising what has been achieved so far, Herr Gaus did no more than draw attention to the obstacles.

The fact that he explored practicable ways out of the dilemma (and what he said in no way clasehed with the opinions of West German experts on international law) was anything but an all-German sacrilege. It was his duty.

Günter Geschke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 13 February 1977)

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Federal states, and this entails numerous problems.

While CDU-governed states favour the involvement of private enterprise in the form of the press, they do so only where this does not interfere with state jurisdiction over the broadcasting corporations. The Federal government on the other hand is rather open-minded where this issue is concerned.

Says Transport and Posts Minister Kurt Gscheide: "It is correct that the press has hitherto disseminated its information primarily by the printed word. On the other hand, the Federal government believes that the traditional form of the press, even if disseminated electronically, still falls in the category of press. As a result, the press must not be excluded from telecommunications forms such as Viewdata or Teletext."

Spokesmen for the Ministry of the Interior expressed similar views.

Thus the tug-of-war about a screen newspaper involves all political parties due to a lack of legal definition.

A dangerous aspect in this connection is the fact that various committees arrive at decisions without ever having seen the new medium.

Says Claus Detjen, the administrator of BDZV: "The states, for instance, arrived at their decisions in the same way as a blind man might speak about colour. None of those who make policy decisions have taken the trouble to get a first-hand impression of the new medium by going to England and taking a close look at it. Had they done so, they would have realised what an effect it must have on newspapers."

But since there is no danger that the legal aspects of the issue might be prejudiced if the publishers present their version of the screen paper, there is also no reason why they should not be able to do so.

Vistiors to the Berlin fair, especially those interested in new developments in the media, will profit by being able to compare the publishers' electronic paper with that presented by the broadcasting corporations. And should, on top of this, the Postal authority too, decide to present its Viewdata, visitors would be able to get a comprehensive and realistic picture of the new medium.

The Postal Authority is of course interested in including new data in its telephone service. Moreover, the electronics industry would like to provide decoders which would enable the subscriber to combine the function of the telephone with that of the TV set.

And finally, the Viewdata system is extremely suitable for the transmission of highly specialised information from the computers' data storage and would even render a dialogue possible by means of the telephone network.

In order to explore and coordinate the problems involved, a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Eberhard Witte and consisting of representatives of the sciences, the electronics industry, associations, media as well as commerce, banks and the Postal Authority will explore the development possibilities of Viewdata.

Professor Witte, the initiator of the committee, feels that the unfortunate political and legal constellation will lead to a stalemate on the media front which prevent the Federal Republic catching up with developments abroad.

Dietrich Ratzke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 February 1977)

■ AGRICULTURE

Tax-wise, German farmers live off the fat of the land

In the famine-stricken years immediately after the Second World War this country's farmers bartered their potatoes, eggs and bacon for the last few valuables that remained to our city-dwellers. Jewellery, furs and Old Masters changed hands, and the oriental rug in the cowshed became the symbol of an era in which prices for farm produce were dictated by hunger.

And today? The undernourished of thirty years ago have become the obese of today, and the shortages of those days have become the surpluses of the seventies. But the hunger syndrome of three decades ago is still with us — to the benefit of the farming community.

This country's affluent society still pays through the nose, though this time not in the form of Persian rugs, but in cash. And our farmers are in no way more modest than in the black market days.

According to latest figures provided by the *Bundesverband des Deutschen Groß- und Außenhandels* (Federal Association of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade) our citizens annually pay 32,600 million deutschmarks more than they would have to pay on world markets in order to satisfy their food requirements.

Of this sum, 12,000 million deutschmarks is paid in the form of taxes and 20,600 million deutschmarks is added to consumer prices by the artificial raising of prices for agricultural produce within the European Community.

And all this in the interests of a branch of the economy which only just manages to produce 50,000 million deutschmarks worth of goods per annum.

But although they are the nation's pampered passengers, this country's 900,000 farmers have become dissatisfied of late, and the butt of their criticism is Finance Minister Hans Apel.

In the coalition negotiations between SPD and FDP, Herr Apel succeeded in making the Government rethink the issue of taxation for farmers.

Constantly in quest of new sources of revenue, Hans Apel stumbled upon the paradisical taxation conditions for farmers.

Thanks to Bonn's agriculture policy, which has always had the farmers' well-being in mind, farm incomes grew proportionately to incomes in other branches of our economy, though, according to the Government's "Green Report", 1975/76 farm incomes show an increase of 20.1 per cent - and this is considerably higher than the national average.

And yet, where Herr Apel's revenues are concerned, the farmers' share kept lagging more and more behind.

Last year, farmers paid only 277 million deutschmarks more in taxes than ten years ago. That is an increase of 14.3 per cent. During the same period the public at large paid 73 per cent more taxes, and employed staff had as much as 300 per cent more deductions from their pay packets.

As Manfred Lahnstein, a high-ranking official in Herr Apel's Finance Ministry, put it, "We must bear in mind that agriculture's income tax payments today amount to no more than the total income tax paid by the staff of Volkswagen."

Even this country's 100,000 largest farms pay only an average income tax of no more than DM 200 per month. This corresponds to the tax paid by a typist or a woman factory worker.

The reasons for this state of affairs are manifold, but one of them is that only these relatively few large farmers are compelled by law to keep books, and half of them still fail to do so.

But instead of being fined by the income tax anthorities as would be all other mortals in this country, their profits are estimated.

Georg Gallus, the new Parliamentary State Secretary in the Agriculture Ministry (himself the owner of a 50-acre farm) states quite bluntly that "having their profits estimated means both less work and less taxes for our farmers."

Where the remaining 800,000 farmers are concerned, the taxation department feels that it would be expecting too much of them to compel them to keep books on top of their other work.

And so the lawmakers prepared a generous tax package for farmers only, namely tax estimates according to a preconceived average. It is therefore not surprising to hear farmers say that "the true tax haven is not Switzerland, but down on the farm."

How right they are. The net result of such tax estimates is that 600,000 full-time farms fall in the category of non-taxpayers altogether. But even the "middle-class" in the farming community - those 200,000 farms which are not compelled to keep books - pay no more than an "alibi tax".

According to the Finance Ministry, this averages DM 17.00 per month.

A tax counsellor in Northern Germany, who numbers more than 1,000 farmers among his clients, says that "even farms with genuine profits in excess of DM 100,000 don't pay a single penny income tax." And the counsellor knows what he is talking about. Says he: "Most of our clients ask us to keep books books for them - but for their own information, not for the taxation department."

Three types of farm income

Number of farms in the Federal Republic

1960 1964 1968 1972 1976

1,385,200 1,265,000 1,165,800 996,700 889,000

thereof

1 Families whose sole income is from farming — 408,100 — 5,625 acres

2 Farm families whose members have other income as well — 131,200 — 2,875 acres

3 Most of their income comes from sources outside agriculture — 349,700 — 12.5 acres

Average acreage

Even such high earners among farmers need not worry about their deception being uncovered. Should the taxation department be able to lay hands on their true income figures it would still be unable to do anything about it. For agriculture has for more than forty years enjoyed a special status in which fiction rather than fact reigns supreme.

According to a study carried out by Bochum's Ruhr University, actual profits of farms ranging from 25 to 50 acres are four times as high as taxable profits according to the normal income tax rate. The disproportion is even larger where farms of 100 acres or more are concerned, for they pay taxes on only one-sixth of their actual profits.

The procedure through which farms enjoy such tax gifts dates back to 1935. Although it was declared unconstitutional as a violation of the principle of equality as far back as 1964, the farmers' lobby, headed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Farmers' Association, succeeded in bringing about new legislation in 1974 (known as Paragraph 13a of the Income Tax Law) which only outwardly differed from the old law.

It is indisputable that the criteria of profit estimates are still far too low. Though the old yardstick of 1935 has been replaced by that of 1964, the latter, too, is obsolete.

There is consensus among agricultural tax experts that "realistic profit figures for farmers were halved for political reasons."

President of the Farmers' Association Konstantin Freiherr von Heereman therefore concedes the necessity for certain changes. He expects that the current legislative period will bring an increase in the disputed uniform criteria for estimates of farmers' profits.

But at the same time, Herr von Heereman warned the Finance Minister against excessive expectations where state coffers are concerned, indicating that the sums involved would be a pittance. He pointed out that it would be a fallacy to expect that this would yield an additional 2,000 million deutschmarks.

The Farmers' Association's tax expert, Erhard Streit, was considerably more aggressive. He maintains that the farmers' meagre tax payments are equitable because they are in keeping with Bonn's agriculture policy. Herr Streit asked Finance Minister Apel point-blank: "Do you want another agriculture policy?"

Such questions - should they be asked in Josef Ertl's Agriculture Commission could easily enough backfire. This Commission, which is staffed by experts from Herr Ertl's Agriculture Ministry and the Finance Ministry, has been established with the objective of examining the tax privileges of our farmers.

It is quite conceivable that the Commission may arrive at the same conclusions as those of the economist Gerald Rüger of Bochum University, who summed up his findings by saying that most of the many tax reliefs (including income tax) enjoyed by farmers do not support our agriculture policy aims and that they in fact oppose these aims. As a result, Herr Rüger advocates that these tax advantages be gradually abolished.

Heinz Blüthmann

(Die Zeit, 11 February 1977)

EEC farm produce price rises unlikely to exceed 3 per cent

The annual round of marathon negotiations of EEC Agriculture Ministers in Brussels about prices for the new harvest is in full swing.

Europe's "Green Market" tug-of-war is likely to last for weeks. But if proposals of the Brussels Commission are anything to go by, price increases will be no more than marginal.

In any event, they are unlikely to exceed three per cent. In fact, West German farmers will probably have to forgo price increases altogether as a result of the proposed reduction of border equalisation payments.

It is obvious that Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl and the President of this country's Farmers' Association, Konstantin von Heereman, oppose such a move, and there is every likelihood that Herr Ertl will succeed in alleviating matters to some extent. But it is quite certain that there will be no major price increases this year.

This is not due solely to the stubborness of the Commission, for even though 90 per cent of all agriculture produce prices are subject to Brussels market regulations, the Agriculture Ministers of the Nine have the last word.

And since Bonn has to pay the lion's share of the Nine's agriculture budget, Minister Ertl would have to face a dispute with his Chancellor and the Finance Minister should he make too many concessions with regard to the strained European budget.

The Federal Government is not only forced to save money, but it would also like agriculture to contribute its share towards price stability.

Having stepped on the toes of pensioners and doctors, there is no reason to spare the farmers. The undesirable side effects of the EEC's Agriculture Market are making themselves felt more and more.

On the other hand, Europe's Green Market has provided the farmers of the Nine with adequate incomes, and the agricultural crises of the thirties have not recurred — neither in Western Europe nor in the United States — since the end of the Second World War.

But the hope that European consumers will at some point be able to buy food at world market prices remains an illusion. Moreover, the regimentation of the Common Agriculture Market is increasingly hampering the development of world trade.

Prices supported by intervention processes and subsidies have led to unsaleable surpluses dumping prices on other markets and the subsidised destruction of surpluses.

The EEC's butter surplus, for instance, could meet a whole year's requirements of Europe's population. This surplus is being sold off to the Soviet Union and to Iran at give-away prices.

According to experts, it would be cheaper to pour surplus milk into gutters and to pay farmers the subsidised price for it than to process and store it.

The cost of artificial price rises in the Nine member nations of the EEC

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■ INDUSTRY

Stuttgart's SEL company pioneers 'inbuilt' quality control methods



Talking to West German captains of industry, the Kremlin's Communist Party boss Leonid Brezhnev once said, "You Germans are quality-obsessed. Why don't you produce everything with less perfection and at a lower price?"

Other foreigners, too, are fascinated by the Germans' striving for perfection, and the French magazine *L'Expansion* called German manufacturers "world champions where perfection is concerned."

In fact, no other country is as quality-conscious as the Federal Republic.

- The Leverkusen photographic concern Agfa-Gevaert uses two per cent of its films solely for testing purposes. Every camera is subjected to a gruelling quality test. Shutters, for instance, are operated 200,000 times before the camera is finally passed. This corresponds to 5,000 films with 36 exposures each.
- Karl Ries, head of the Mannesmann testing department, proudly points out that in his company all quality controls of welding seams are free of human error because they are fully automated and carried out by computer.
- This country even has a "German Society for Quality", located in Frankfurt, which is unique in the world. It also has a "Quality Association for Plastic Products" and a trade magazine entitled "Quality and Dependability".

Where quality is concerned, this country ranks at the very top on a world-wide scale, and this has greatly contributed towards making the imprint "Made in Germany" a hallmark of excellence. And this in turn has made the Federal Republic the second-largest trading nation.

But the quality-consciousness of Germans has its drawbacks on world markets. For as a result of their quality German products rank among the most expensive in the world, including many of our trading partners to buy in cheaper countries.

But quality does not always have to be expensive.

Strictly profit-oriented US business executives were the first to turn the moral "quality criterion" into an economic one. This move was spearheaded by Philipp B. Crosby, Vice-President and Quality Director of the mammoth US concern International Telegraph and Telephone (ITT).

As a result of world-wide research and tests carried out in his own company, Mr Crosby concluded that "at least 80 per cent of the cost for quality is caused by non-quality."

In other words, it is not the measures necessary to achieve high-quality, such as tests, which make the resulting products so expansive, but the cost caused by eliminating the consequences of faulty production.

These consequences entail additional manufacturing processes, rejects and added costs resulting from guarantee obligations.

West German companies do not as yet include these expenses in their costing figures for quality.

Alfred Lisson, head of the quality control department of the mail-order house Quelle (whom his colleagues have dubbed the German Crosby) established that of the 550 companies whom he questioned on this subject, only 15 per cent were able to come up with the relevant figures.

This means that only few companies have even an approximate idea of the cost and advantages of continous quality control. As a result, Crosby's ideas that traditional German concepts of quality controls at the end of the production chain are foolish are slow to gain a foothold in this country.

Meanwhile, the German Society for Quality has concluded that "while our industry undeniably spends a great deal of money for quality the emphasis still lies on pure quality control of the end product.

"But quality cannot be achieved by controls at the end of a production process. All this can achieve is to sort out rejects. The more economical way would therefore be to prevent the production of rejects from the very beginning."

But this can only be achieved if quality is planned into a product from the very beginning and then consistently pursued throughout the manufacturing process. The old quality control system would thus become a comprehensive means of securing quality from the very beginning.

The German subsidiary of ITT, Standard Elektrik Lorenz (SEL) in Stuttgart, has already implemented such a model in which all sectors of the company — management as well as research engineers, marketing specialists and those responsible for production — are programmed to prevent faulty products and ensure quality.

This extends all the way to posters in the various factories reading: "How Often May a Nurse Drop a Baby?" or "You, too, Must Work Faultlessly!"

The success of this move can be expressed in figures. Says Rüdiger K. Vocht, head of the central quality control department at SEL: "Our costs have dropped by 50 to 70 per cent."

This type of quality control is still in its infancy in the Federal Republic. But many companies which still stick to old methods of control are being forced to adopt the new cost-saving methods.

Thus for instance the suppliers of Quelle must contractually agree to observe the quality standards of the giant mail-order house. The contracts stipulate that the manufacturers must build up a quality control department and must undertake to introduce specified control measures.

The implementation of these measures is continuously checked by Quelle's 150 specialists who have free access to the manufacturers' plants.

The manufacturers, who had initially opposed such stiff terms, have finally had to agree to them. For, as Herr Lisson put it, "Groaning and moaning about the immense costs a high standards of quality entails is nonsense. In actual fact, quality is cheap because all expenditures in ensuring excellence lead to cost reduction, thus improving the company's profits."

Heinz-Klaus Mertes

(Welt am Sonntag, 13 February 1977)

EEC steel industry seeks import curbs

Europe's Nine may relinquish yet another domain of free world trade, with a call by the steel industry to restrict steel imports from non-EEC countries.

They are under pressure to take this grave step towards protectionism in order to safeguard a great number of branches of industry, innumerable jobs and traditional markets.

Having announced the introduction of an anti-dumping tariff for Japanese ballbearings and rollerbearings, Europe's steel industry has now called upon the EEC Commission to curtail steel imports from non-EEC countries.

The world has meanwhile come to terms with the fact that Europe's agriculture has been surrounded by a protective wall for the past decade. But the implemented and envisaged measures in the industrial sector are a novelty.

The outcry in Europe when the United States temporarily closed its borders to agricultural products and imposed astronimic tariffs for chemicals, which made imports into the US virtually impossible, is still remembered.

Now the Nine, too, are faced with the alternative of either abandoning the free trade principle or driving numerous branches of industry to the verge of a mere subsistence level.

For the time being, the European Commission is still hesitant to answer the steel industry's cry for help. It expects industry to provide proof that its production and sales situation has become precarious enough to warrant such a severe step as import curtailments.

The Commission clearly needs to present more evidence before the General Agreement on Tariffs Trade (GATT) will agree to such a step.

The same applies to anti-dumping tariffs on steel imports. In any event, the onus of proof that a state of emergency exists rests with Europe's industry.

Helmut J. Weiand

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 11 February 1977)

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amounted to 17,000 million deutschmarks last year. As a result there are no funds available for structural changes in Europe's agriculture.

The beneficiaries of these artificial price increases are the farmers, whose income is high anyway. But alas, there are no cure-alls in the agriculture sector.

Necessary changes in the Common Agriculture Market are feasible in easy stages and over a long period, and there is no lack of suitable proposals. But even though time is of the essence the chances of such changes being implemented are very slim indeed.

There was a time when the initial six member nations of the EEC planned to create a European Federation by 1980, starting with a common agriculture market. And so far Europe has not progressed beyond this agriculture market with all its weaknesses.

The dream of a united Europe would come to an end should Green Europe fail. This is why Bonn will once more avoid a confrontation on the green front.

H. Jürgensen

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 15 February 1977)

German industry wants to invest more in the Middle East

Business circles in Syria consider protection of foreign investments indispensible if German industry is to step up its investments in that country's largely state-controlled economy.

Though the Syrian government has presented a draft treaty, Bonn feels that the final terms are still subject to negotiation. Due to the fact that this treaty still remains open and that Bonn has provided no additional credits for Syria, Foreign Minister Genscher was unable to sign any treaties or agreements during his recent stay in Damascus.

A West German trade delegation, consisting of leading members of this country's major banks, the Federation of Industrialists, Krupp, Babcock, various steel companies and the construction industry, is at present exploring investment possibilities in Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

The delegation is unlikely to be presented with proposals involving major projects in Syria, since that country can not expect new foreign exchange subsidies from the oil-producing countries (involving about 2,000 to 3,000 million dollars) until later this year and because the priorities for 1977 development projects still have to be decided.

In 1976, Damascus had to cut down its development plans by 60 per cent due to foreign exchange shortages.

Syria's 1977 budget amounts to 10,600 million deutschmarks, of which 6,500 million is earmarked for investements. Among the projects particularly interesting for this country's industry are the rolling mill in Hama, the installation of 200,000 telephones, the construction of an automobile assembly plant and the introduction of colour TV.

Industrial cooperation between Bonn and Damascus has been somewhat troubled so far because the 140 million deutschmarks of the 1975 capital assistance amounting to 180 million deutschmarks earmarked for a plant in Banias is still unpaid because the Bank for Reconstruction kept imposing new conditions for foreign capital aid and continuously demanded new feasibility studies.

It is hoped, however, that construction of the plant can begin this year and that the obstacles at present hampering closer cooperation between Bonn and Damascus will be eliminated.

In the wake of a cautious liberalisation policy (which still lags behind that of Egypt), Damascus now wants to promote joint ventures with Syrian capital majority.

The German trade delegation wants to explore the possibility of joint ventures, though the problem of profit transfers still remains to be solved.

Peter M. Ranke

(Die Welt, 10 February 1977)

■ FOOD

Dwindling fish stocks spur search for new varieties



After years of uncontrolled fishing in the oceans of the Northern hemisphere stocks of fish are reaching a dangerously low level, and marine researchers are turning their attention more and more to the possibilities of deep-sea fishing.

The Federal Fisheries Research Institute in Hamburg has contributed so much valuable work towards this new area of research — new at least from the fishing and culinary view point — that the Federal Republic is now one of the leading authorities on the subject.

To avoid a world shortage of protein in the none-too-distant future, it will be necessary to investigate the possibilities of marketing types of fish which have not been used for human consumption up to now.

Since the beginning of the seventies the fisheries research ships "Walter Herwig" and "Anton Dohrn" have tested over ten species of fish found only in deeper regions of the Atlantic. They have tested them for suitability for processing as filets, pies and rissoles, for food value and marketing value.

Their findings are unlikely to revolutionise the fish market, but housewives will find they will have to get used to some new names and ways of buying fish.

The rattail fish — otherwise, more attractively known as the grenadier fish — tastes excellent, but looks particularly unappetising and has to be beheaded and fileted before appearing in the shops.

The present miserable situation in traditional fishing grounds near Iceland, the Faroe Islands and North-East Atlantic has been developing recognisably for years. Fishing fleets have expanded continually and more and more countries have been jumping on this very lucrative bandwagon.

A great many countries rely heavily on their supplies of fish. If Norway, for instance, were to give up fishing it would have to extend its agricultural lands by 64 per cent in order to maintain supplies of protein. This is, of course, impossible.

Japan would even have to increase its agricultural land by 185 per cent. And the USA would have to up its dairy produce by 22 per cent if the fodder it now manufactures from fish were to be replaced by skimmed milk. And fish meal is also used a great deal for chicken feed in the States.

The extent of damage caused by uncontrolled fishing in the North-East Atlantic is particularly noticeable where the most popular fish — cod, haddock and sea salmon are concerned.

In 1974 the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Working Group said that not more than 600,000 tons of fish should be caught, but by the end of the season the total catch amounted to over a million tons. So a whole generation of fish was caught and even the young fish were not released.

On hearing that thanks to modern fishing techniques, Norway, Denmark, Russia, the Federal Republic and in particular Britain were sweeping their waters clean of fish, Iceland extended its national fishing grounds to two hundred sea miles in order to be sure of its supplies of fish, oil, gas ore and mineral silt.

The fish situation in all the northern oceans is pretty dismal, but for many species of fish it is downright disastrous. Up to 1970 the world fish catch rose steadily to a peak seventy million tons. Since then it has slumped drastically to 65 million tons.

Only a few ocean areas such as the Patagonian Shelf and the North West Indian Ocean offer hope still of any worthwhile catches for conventional fishing.

A total 361 million of the 510 million square kilometres of the earth's surface are covered with water. Only 7.6 per cent of this has been used up to now.

In the North Sea sole and herring have now become more or less a luxury, and the British government is pressing the EEC to agree to a total ban on herring catches.

In the past the North Sea has supplied a twentieth of the total world catch, yet it represents only a twenty-five thousandth of the Earth's oceans.

It is pointless making infinite calculations as to the number of fish that will be available in future if species of fish are not even given the chance to breed in sufficient numbers to stay in existence.

One solution is to resort to deep sea fishing — that is to start catching fish below 600 metres. At present the Federal Fisheries Research Institute is developing new fishing techniques and equipment adequate to withstand the increased pressure at such depths.

Apart from increasingly sensitive radar equipment experiments are also being made with remote controlled powered trawl nets. And trawlers are also doing valuable work in mapping out deep-sea mountains that could cost unsuspecting deep-sea trawlers a fair number of nets.

Other countries have experimented with fish pumps which suck in whole shoals of fish at a time. These are based on the electric eel principle of firing bursts of electric current into the water, so building up an electric field. As fish swim towards the anode they are stunned and can then be sucked on deck.

While a Polynesian working manually can catch about ten tons of fish per year a modern trawler can catch up to four hundred times this amount.

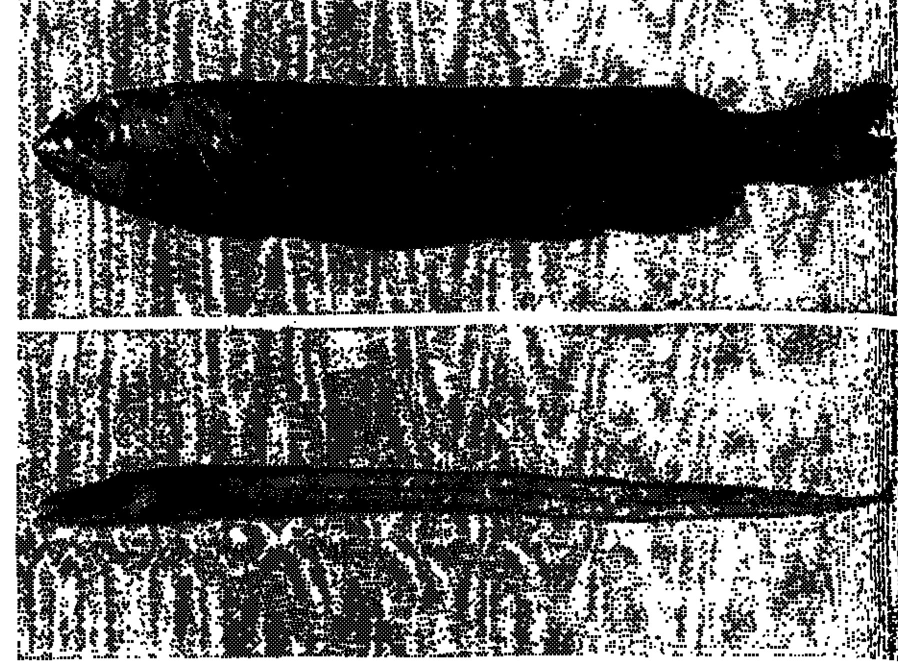
Looking ahead to the inevitable fish crisis, experts in Hamburg highly recommend the grenadier fish and reckon that in time it will become a regular feature on the menu in this country.

The grenadier belongs to the long-tailed species. Half its length — it can be up to one metre long — comprises of tail. It is found at depths of six hundred to sixteen hundred metres on the shelf slopes from Britain to Iceland, Labrador to Newfoundland.

Because of its unpleasant appearance the rattail fish has to be fileted before being sold. But only about 22 per cent of the fish is edible. Because of this the grenadier has not been able to compete in Britain with other fish — such as cod — on the market up to now, and the market for it has more or less collapsed.

However, East bloc states, particularly the USSR, have been catching the grenadier in large quantities. In the GDR it is regularly availabe in the shops.

Blue whiting is another top quality fish which up to now has generally only been used for fish meal production. Taste-wise it is similar to haddock and cod, is about the size of a herring and belongs to the cod family.



The smooth-head (above) and the black scabbard fish
(Photos: M. Stehmann 3, dpa)

It is found in large quantities in the mid-North Atlantic, but because it is small and difficult to process in large quantities it has not been fished for a great deal.

Laboratory tests, however, have shown that it could be extremely valuable on the fish market and for anyone counting calories it is an ideal buy.

The "Walter Herwig" pulled in a haul of imperial perch off the North-West coast of Spain. It is similar to the ocean perch as regards form, taste and colour and can be caught at a depth of up to 800 metres.

There is a lot of eating in imperial perch and it can be cut into excellent, thick filets. The black snake fish is also to be found in Spanish waters.

An absolutely new fish for eating was discovered almost by chance during the 1975/76 Antarctic expedition from the Federal Republic. The Atlantic moth perch is up to 1.70 metres long, can weigh as much as 45 kilogrammes and tastes extremely good.

Cuttlefish is still plentiful everywhere, but until recently has had only a very small market in northern Europe. In Southern European countries it is in constant demand, however, and, via the tourist trade, is becoming steadily more popular further north.

It is excellent cith fileted, in soups, salads or ragouts and fish experts have already started making up recipes to try to tempt the German palate.

Other species of fish unfortunately proved unfit for eating because of their unpleasant taste.

The Atlantic argentine has a taste remarkably reminiscent of pickled gherkins, but can be successfully tinned or smoked.

The smooth-head fish unfortunately has such a pungent smell that it can only be smoked. Economically, however, it is not a viable proposition.

The black scabbard fish is another fish which tastes a bit too strongly of gherkins. The kelpfish — a mid-Atlantic relative of the imperial perch — is suitable for marketing — it tastes similar to veal — but cannot be caught in sufficient quantities.

The ratfish, which, like the shark and ray belongs to the cartilaginous genus, does not lose its bitter aftertaste even after being chemically treated.

Researchers estimate that with the world's population doubling in 30 years normal protein sources will become so scarce that fish will constitute the only means of providing protein.

Harro A. Müller

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 13 February 1977)

The American shad (above) and the 'grenadier' a rat-tail fish

■ EXHIBITIONS

Thirties art on show in Munich

Frankfurter Neue Presse

An exhibition of German art from the thirties is to be open in Munich until 17 April. Although this era has by no means been neglected recently from the point of view of films and music, its art has largely been ignored in favour of other periods up to now.

The exhibition is being held in the *Haus der Kunst* exhibition gallery, in which a rather inferior selection of art from 1937 onwards has been housed under the general classification heading "German".

The new exhibition is, however, not to be devoted to analyses of Nazi art. That has already been done enough. It is principally concerned with the "other" Germany as it is seen in some of the art produced during this confused and unstable period of German history.

It is not merely due to political reasons that this art of the thirties has scarcely been exhibited before. Rather, the creative initiative and spectacularity of the art of the twenties vanished after 1930.

Despite this, German art maintained a certain strength and innovatory talent both among artists who went abroad and those who went into hiding in Germany.

And the three hundred exhibits in Munich, which have been collected from all over the world bear excellent witness to the value and interest of the art and times during the thirties.

This is the first time that this has been done. For during and after the thirtes the public and art historians more or less completely ignored the artistic developments of this period.

It was long afterwards that artists such as Beckmann, Kokoschka and Nay found recognition for their work in other countries.

Their objective realism made little headway to start with against the bald naturalism of Nazi-ism. The exhibition, incidentally, includes eight works by Breker and Ziegler by way of contrast.

Even after 1945 these realist artists found little recognition for their art and this neglect was at least in part due the "socialist realism" trend which coloured all critical attitudes towards art for some time.

The exhibition is also intended to make amends — somewhat late in the day — to artists who have never been given the attention they deserve — those such as Schrimpf, Scharl and Grossberg.

The *Haus der Kunst* started a similar project to reprieve such neglected artists from obscurity in 1962 when it put on an exhibition of art that it had previously organised twenty-five years earlier — as far as this was possible.

The "Bauhaus" school of art, founded in Weimar in 1919 and finally closed in Dessau in 1933 had considerable influence on art up to and after the thirties. The exhibition bears excellent witness not only to this, but also to the effect the school had on the development of applied art, for which there are approximately one hundred exhibits.

Karl Stankiewietz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 February 1977)



Franz Wilhelm Seiwert's *Der Bauernkrieg* 1932

(Photo: Katalog)

Spiegel chief saves film publishing house

Rudolf Augstein, the publisher of the news magazine *Der Spiegel*, has acquired the majority share in the *Filmverlag der Autoren* (Authors' Film Publishing House), and thus saved the Munich-based organisation from collapse.

As film director Hark Bohm, spokesmen for and one of the initiators of the *Filmverlag*, put it, "The contract with Augstein has brought the financial balance sheet of the jeopardised organisation back to zero."

The founders of the *Filmverlag* — which dates back to 1971 — among them the film-makers Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Wim Wenders, Hans W. Geissendörfer and Uwe Brandner, will remain shareholders.

According to Augstein, the cooperative model of the *Filmverlag* will be retained, thus enabling it to provide an effective distribution basis for attractive German films in future as well.

The latest film under the directorship of Bernhard Wicki - *Die Zitadelle* (The Citadel) — will be included in the programme.

The publisher of *Der Spiegel* stressed that this country had enough good directors, but needed more capable producers.

dpa

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 February 1977)

Documenta VI links arts and the media

Documenta VI is scheduled to take place in Kassel from 24 June to 2 October 1977 under the somewhat enigmatic motto *Kunst in der Medienwelt — die Medien der Kunst* (Art in the World of the Media — the Media in Art).

After a great many labour pains and following a barage of criticism from art and art-dealer circles, *Documenta's* art director Dr Manfred Schneckenburger and his team developed their ideas step by step. They have secured a hard core of about 180 exhibiting artists.

Documenta VI wants to provide the public with an insight into the development of art and its most important styles during the seventies and the position of the arts in a world dominated by the media.

The interplay between the fine arts and photography, will demonstrate what artists working with brush and palette and those working with a camera are able to depict in the realms of reflection and reality.

The most recent innovation in the technology of depiction, namely the electronic video process, will provide the visitor with an opportunity to choose an alternative to television among the 50 tapes on exhibit.

Sculpture conceived in relation to its environment will be another focal point of this year's *Documenta*.

As Dr Schneckenburger put it, "For the first time in Europe, Kassel will present an exhibition of sculptures based on the surrounding landscape."

A special section of the exhibition will be entitled "Utopian Design" and will contain designs of automobiles which will never get onto the roads.

Under the title "Metamorphosis of the Book" *Documenta* will present various book designs which will transform the printing press product into works with artistic dimensions.

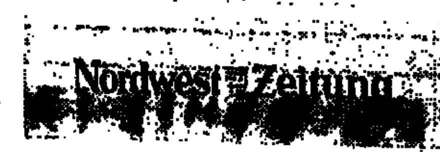
Artists from all parts of the world have been invited to participate by performing self-depictions in a section to be called "*Documenta* Scene".

Professor Josef Beuys and his colleagues will lecture at the opening semester of the Academy of Individual Creativity which was founded by him.

Jörg-H. Beyer

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 February 1977)

Cologne exhibits sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen's work



The Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen is popular again 133 years after his death. While some of his contemporaries praised him as Europe's neoclassical sculptor, later generations maligned and ridiculed him as an imitator of antique art.

Thorvaldsen, who has not been on exhibit in this country since 1918, will now experience a revival by the exhibition of his works in Cologne's Kunsthalle. The exhibtion, entitled *Thorvladsen — ein dänischer Bauer in Rom* (Thorvaldsen — a Danish Sculptor in Rome) contains 200 sculptures, models and sketches, and will remain open until 3 April.

The extensive show impresses in more ways than one. The art historian will be able to forge links between Thorvaldsen on the one hand and Rodin and Maillol on the other, while the average visitor will gain an insight into the world of art around 1800 — a world alien to the viewor from today's vantage point.

The exhibition captures the dreams and visions from the sculptor's realm of beautiful illusions — in the cloak of antiquity.

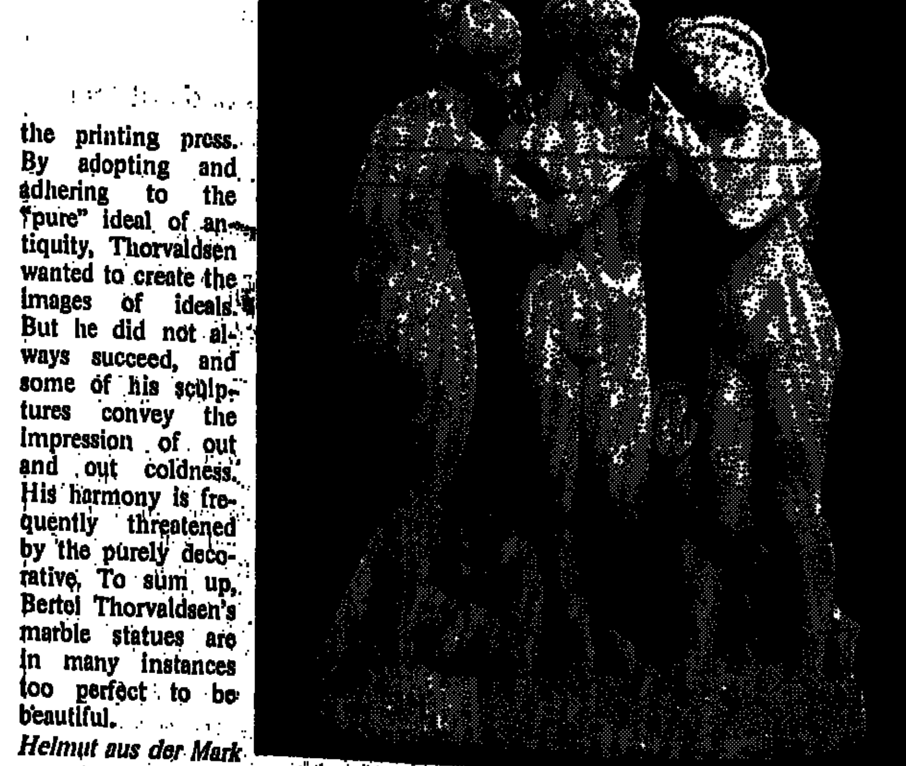
There are his Muses in classical garb; a white Cupid testifies to the power of love, and Venus embodies the ideal of beauty. The delicate figure of Hebe forms a counterpart to the elegant statue of Ganymede.

Most of the works on exhibit are on loan from the Thorvaldsen Museum in Copenhagen.

The exhibition sheds new light on the sculptor's special relationship with Germany as exemplified by his monuments such as Maximilian on his mount, sculpted for Munich Schiller, the Poet Laureate and Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. By adopting and adhering to the "pure" ideal of antiquity, Thorvaldsen wanted to create the images of ideals. But he did not always succeed, and some of his sculptures convey the impression of out and out coldness. His harmony is frequently threatened by the purely decorative. To sum up, Bertel Thorvaldsen's marble statues are in many instances too perfect to be beautiful.

Helmut aus der Mark

(Nordwest Zeitung, 9 February 1977)



Bertel Thorvaldsen's sculpture *The Three Graceful Ones*

(Photo: IP/Rhein-Bildarchiv)

■ THE ARTS

Edgar Reitz' film *Stunde Null* tackles an awkward theme



Edgar Reitz' film, *Stunde Null* (Zero Hour) has now been released in the Frankfurt *Kommunale Kinos*, non-commercial cinemas opened with the assistance of local authorities with the aim of boosting public interest in experimental and quality films.

Reitz and other films directors have always complained that, although TV has given films a far wider audience than could ever have been hoped for formerly, film makers had little opportunity to establish any critical contact with the general public.

The *Kommunale Kinos* may be the start of a constructive change for the better in this respect, since their audiences are asked directly for their reactions to and opinions of the films that are shown.

And if in return for this they always get to see films of such quality and interest as Zero Hour they will probably be only to willing to cooperate.

Zero Hour is courageously set in one of the most sensitive periods of recent German history, the occupation of Germany after the collapse of the Hitler regime.

Its immediate setting is a village on the outskirts of Leipzig in July 1945, eight weeks after the end of the war, when the Americans gave up this area to the Russians in return for part of Berlin.

The film starts with the departure of the American occupation troops. The few days that elapse before the Russians arrive are tense to breaking point. Rumours are rife in the village of plundering, rape and other acts of violence by Russian soldiers.

The anti-fascist committee which is hastily set up warns the people to avoid trouble, and remain calm, and promises them potatoes and briquettes in return But they have been given too many promises. Now the villagers are simply tired and have run out of patience. The overriding feeling among both young and old is fear.

Peace has been officially declared, but it has not yet become reality for these people, and even the showman that arrives and sets up a roundabout makes no impression.

Reitz has admirably captured this "zero hour" mood of waiting apprehensively for the new beginning, the new step into the future.

The scenery of the film — which was shot in blank and white (camera: Gernot Roll) contributes a great deal to this mood with the bicycle workshop housed in a disused hut at the side of a level crossing which is likewise no longer used.

The barriers at the crossing are out of order and permanently closed. The tracks that once led to Switzerland and Spain no longer lead anywhere. The barriers down, the signales stuck at "halt", everything is suspended, waiting for the arrival of the Russians.

As always, would-be leaders and preachers emerge. Waving a red flag the former Nazi and signalman is the first to appear as anti-fascist to greet the Russians.

Reitz has been strongly criticised by Frankfurt film-goers for including such a character in the film. Because, as the only anti-fascist in the film, the man is made to look like a ludicrous opportunist they see him as a direct attack on the anti-fascist movement.

In fact, there is also a social democrat in the film. But he is neither intended to be a contrast to the signalman, nor does he have this effect.

Reitz counters criticism on this point by upholding that it would be wrong to engineer such a symmetrical balance in the film.

Psychologically the film is at its most sensitive in its portrayal of children. Here Reitz's personal approach to his material has proved particularly effective. In casting for these parts he deliberately thought back to people he knew as a child.

He sees himself in the figure of the bicycle boy — although he only ever saw the Americans march in, not the Russians.

But while this child's confusion and upset feelings are only hinted at through film shots, the virtual destruction of the adolescent Joschi is portrayed very much more directly.

Joschi, who is totally taken up with the idea of a Nazi-American union against the bolshevists, is unable to grasp reality. He gets himself a pilot's leather jacket, a pistol and a motor bike — symbols of the victor — so as to have at least the feeling of not being one of the defeated.

But one after the other, these are taken from him: the pistol and motor bike by the Russians; and the jacket and some decorations he has found by the Americans.

The final scene, in which he runs after a military police jeep with his girlfriend, Isa leaves no doubt about it.

Reitz has purposely avoided letting historical political judgements creep into the film And he is right in this respect in saying that Zero Hour is "not a film for anyone who knows what left and right are."

He intends neither to reinforce nor to change his audience's political views. His intention was rather to prod peo-

Continued page 15



The youth, Joschi, played by Kai Taschner, and the girl Isa, played by Annette Jünger, in *Stunde Null* (Photo: Christian Reitz)

Munich *Kammerspiele* stage Enquist's first play

Deutsches Allgemeines SONNTAGSBLATT

Swedish playwright August Strindberg is the central figure in novelist Per Olov Enquist's first play, *Die Nacht der Tribaden* (The Night of the Tribades), presented by Munich's *Kammerspiele* theatre.

The opening scene is curiously familiar to theatre people ... A rehearsal is in progress, and the characters are typical of the boulevard theatre: a man, his wife and a girl.

The setting is August Strindberg's Scandinavian Experimental Theatre in the year 1889, exactly 100 years after the French Revolution which, though propagating equality, did not include women in this equality. And this very fact is the crux of Enquist's play, directed by Dieter Dorn.

A rehearsal of Strindberg's mini-drama *Die Stärkere* (The Stronger One) is taking place amid dingy props consisting in the main of crates of beer bottles piled on top of each other; the set having been designed by Jürgen Rose.

The rehearsal of the play which Strindberg wrote as a catharsis so to speak following his separation from his first wife, the Finnish actress Siri, is directed by Strindberg himself. The play and the manner in which it is directed is such as to hurt the feelings of the actress Siri, who plays herself. But *Die Nacht der Tribaden* also tells of the changes and metamorphoses which a role can bring about in those who act it.

It is probably this aspect which attracted Munich's *Kammerspiele* to this piece. Since the beginning of the season with Dorn's production of *Minna von Barnhelm* and with Harald Clemens' works, the *Kammerspiele* indicated a particular interest in conveying the experiences of actors while portraying their roles. This interest has developed into a "theme".

Making use of his Swedish fellow-countryman Strindberg, the novelist Per Olov Enquist demonstrates how prone the world of the theatre is to manipulation.

Strindberg, the playwright of the battle of the sexes, known as a woman-hater, copes with and stylises his own (to a large extent sexual) complexes in a typically male manner.

In his vanity, he makes Siri, "the stronger one", and Marie, her girlfriend, who continuously drinks beer in the play, woo him. But in actual fact — and Strindberg was never able to live this down — Marie and Siri are lesbian lovers and depicted as such in *Die Nacht der Tribaden*.

In Dieter Dorn's unusually subtle and slightly ironic production, August Strindberg's part is played by Helmut Griem. Throughout the play Griem impressed by his ability to resist being drawn into the vortex of the ridiculousness of his role. He managed to sustain the characterisation of Strindberg as a lone and suffering intellectual notwithstanding the triumph of Barbara Petritsch as Siri and Cornelia Froboess as Marie.

Despite the difficulties involved, this new tragi-comical and ghostly sonata (translated by Heinrich Gimmler) will find its way to other stages in this country following its premiere in Munich.

Dietmar N. Schmidt

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 13 February 1977)

Helmut Griem as Strindberg, Barbara Petritsch as Siri von Essen-Strindberg and Cornelia Froboess as Maria Caroline David in *The Night of the Tribades* (Photo: Winfried Rabanus)

■ MEDICINE

Doctors upset over Bill to cut health service costs



Doctors are coming out in protest against Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg's proposed Bill aimed at cutting expenditure in this country's health system.

Whether they all know exactly what it is all about is uncertain. It is even more questionable whether the public has any real idea why so many doctors are upset.

In fact, a great many doctors are unsure about how they should react to the Bill, and are simply sitting tight waiting to see what the politicians decide.

Leaders of the doctors' protest movement say the Bill constitutes a threat to the standard of medical service and will mean impersonal, standardised medical insurance.

Doctors said all this as long ago as 1960 when Theodor Blank introduced a Bill designed to cut costs of the country's health insurance. At that time they distributed leaflets in waiting rooms saying "from now on the Minister of Labour decides what is good for patients."

Herr Blank did not succeed. Konrad Adenauer more of less dropped him like a hot potato. This was not so much because he disagreed with Herr Blank's proposals, but because he reckoned that if a politician wants votes he should not tread on doctors' toes.

Doctors are highly influential people in their own quiet way. They see innumerable people every day – people who trust them and their judgements. What they say, goes.

Since 1960 health service costs have soared. Herr Blank was worried when the yearly expenditure of health insurance organisations verged on 9,000 million deutschmarks. Now it has reached 65,000 million deutschmarks per annum.

Medical costs have risen, admittedly, and patients are demanding more of their health insurance organisations. But the number of people paying national health contributions has increased by only a quarter.

And health insurance organisations were relieved of a great deal of their financial burden when employers were obliged to start paying employees while off sick. This now make a difference of more than ten thousand million deutschmarks.

Paradoxically not only have costs per patient risen, the number of patients has also increased steadily the more oney the public has had to invest in the health service. In view of this it was only a matter of time before people started having serious doubts as to the effectiveness of the service.

Some leading medical experts realised this long ago and tried to induce doctors to moderate their income demands, stressing the necessity of this because of the economic recession.

Led by Hans Wolf Muschallik, president of the *Kassenärztlichen Bundesvereinigung*, the Federal Association of Doctors who work in association with health insurance organisations, at first made some headway, but have now finally been defeated.

They successfully campaigned for sensible limitations on the particularly high costs of laboratory work and treatment requiring specialied equipment.

Then, together with the insurance organisations, they succeeded in getting through the national recommendation for 1976/77 which set an upper limit on increases in fees, so cutting not only the cost, but also the amount of medical treatment.

It took a lot of courage to do this. And Herr Muschallik had powerful opponents to contend with who said he was trying to put a millstone round doctors' necks.

They wanted to prevent anything of the sort happening again or even being supported on a regular basis.

But then Herr Ehrenberg took the initiative and included these recommendations in his Bill. For doctors this meant that that freedom, personal responsibility, spontaneity in acting sensibly were suddenly gone.

So Herr Muschallik's opponents have finally won. Doctors are outraged at these restrictions.

Human nature reacts better when given the choice to do the right thing than when forced. And doctors are no exception. It would have been far better to have waited to see whether voluntary control were maintained, especially since doctors had already been persuaded to adapt to the country's economic difficulties.

The planned limits on increases in expenditure on drugs and medicines is even more of a problem. The more drugs doctors prescribe the less money will eventually land in their pockets. If they write fewer prescriptions they will benefit financially in the long run.

Doctors should not have to be involved in such moral hassles. Drugs which are covered by health insurance shemes are an open temptation to all concerned.

Rather than adopting healthier living habits and doing something about the environmental factors dangerous to health, the public prefers to run to doctors for prescriptions for this, that and the next thing.

And up to now doctors have done little to discourage this, so that the situation has simply spiralled. As a result the country is getting flooded by an excess of doctors, pharmacologists and chemists attracted by the finanial benefits.

If in future, however, they all want to continue earning as much as they do at present, the Federal Republic will have to become extremely sickly nation.

Unfortunately Herr Ehrenberg's Bill leaves this basic problem untouched. Too many people are gaining too much from sickness and disease – including the public at large, which seems to consider itself fully entitled to get as much out of the health system as possible and live as unhealthily as it likes because it has paid for its sins in advance in health insurance contributions.

So the country's medical service has begun to run seriously amok. While it has become increasingly technicalised and specialised, doctors have less and less time to give patients the attention they may need, public health is degnerating rather than improving, and costs are rocketing.

Any attempts at reversing the situation are met from one quarter of another with bitter opposition. But demonstrating will get doctors nowhere. Instead they should put forward their own ideas on how to remedy the obviously hopeless situation. Then it might be possible to delay making a final decision in this part of the Bill.

Albert Müller

(Die Welt, 12 February 1977)

Limit to doctors' income planned

A heated dispute has started up between doctors and the Federal Ministry of Labour over a new Bill intended to reduce expenditure in this country's health system.

The Bill proposes an upper limit to doctors' incomes as well as maximum prices for drugs and medicines. In fact this means the introduction of maximum amounts for prescribing drugs and medicines.

Health insurance organisations and societies of doctors associated with these organisations are to come to an agreement on and submit their recommendations as to suitable adjustments to doctors' fees, at state lavel.

Where doctors' fees are raised the average national rise in income is to serve as yardstick. Furthermore in fixing this incomes of people in occupations of a similar standing to that of health insurance doctors are to be taken into account as well as expectations as to the rise in costs of maintaining a practice and the number of working hours involved.

Health insurance organisations and their associate doctors are to meet annually to come to an agreement as regards doctors' overall incomes, taking these points into consideration.

The Bill also plans an upper limit for prices for drugs and medicines. If, in prescribing these, doctors exceed this limit their incomes will correspondingly decrease.

An official comparison of prices for drugs is to be made so as to make it possible for doctors to prescribe medicines as economically as possible.

Here also, the health insurance organisations and associate doctors are to meet annually and submit *their* recommendations as to a suitable upper limit for prices, which will then be taken into account in officially fixing the limit.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 February 1977)

German doctors fear 'invasion' of EEC medicos

Doctors in this country are worried over the new EEC agreement whereby all doctors in EEC countries may work in any member state of their choice.

Reports are coming in of whole armies of doctors poised ready to make the move to the Federal Republic at a time when West Germany is already well supplied with doctors.

"Near the Alsace-Lorraine border French, Belgian and Dutch doctors are going to start opening up second practices" says Ute Leutloff of the Society of Practicing Doctors in Cologne.

This would considerably lessen the risk of moving to a new country, and in any case doctors who already live near the borders will have few language problems on setting up practices in the Federal Republic.

Dr Hess, legal adviser of the Federal Medical Society, says "French and British doctors will almost certainly be particularly interested in working around Bonn and Düsseldorf because of all the diplomats and other foreigners in the area."

But there are also a number of other cities with a large proportion of foreign inhabitants which will probably have to cope with large numbers of doctors from EEC countries.

Although the agreement was reached only a matter of weeks ago, the Federal Republic has already received a large number of applications from doctors in other EEC countries anxious to practise here. Doctors in the Federal Republic are renowned for their high incomes.

In Britain where many doctors are disatisfied with the state health system and the amount of unpaid overtime they are expected to do, more than a thousand doctors have applied to the British Medical Association for information about the possibilities of practising in other EEC countries. Most of them are especially interested in moving to the south of France and the Federal Republic.

Dr Hess said recently, "If doctors from other countries come here in large numbers overcrowding of doctors in this country could become critical.

"In view of the vast numbers of medical students qualifying in this country each year there will almost certainly be an excess of doctors here for the next few years at least.

"It is unlikely that foreign doctors will settle in the Eifel or any such similar area where there are relatively few doctors. In all probability they will prefer to head for cities such as Bonn which will then probably have to cope with large numbers of unneeded doctors."

In principle doctors in this country claim they have nothing against such an agreement between EEC countries. But as Dr Hess pointed out, "Although we always wanted that we also wanted it to be settled equally for all the countries involved."

This is where the problems arise, for each country has a different health system. The agreement, for instance, exempts the civil service in each country from having to employ doctors from other countries.

In effect this means that doctors from this country who want to work in France will experience great difficulty in finding a job because most doctors in hospitals there have state contracts.

French doctors, however, could come to work in almost any hospital in the Federal Republic because most doctors

Continued on page 13

■ EDUCATION

Criticism of training for social workers gets fiercer

A paper issued by the FederalAssociation of Rural and Urban Authorities on 14 September last year has stirred up national controversy over the inadequacy of the training given to social workers.

The issue has been smouldering for some time, but now a hefty discussion has started between social welfare societies, universities, ministries and the potential employees concerned.

After a number of short broadsides in various publications, the Assocation which represents over five hundred towns and cities in the Federal Republic and approximately 250 rural districts, has finally opened full fire.

It has delivered to those responsible for social workers' training at approximately fifty training colleges and universities throughout the country the full force of its criticism of the training now given.

The campaign is all the more forceful for the fact that the majority of those critisising the standard and content of training are the main employers of this country' thirty thousand-odd social workers.

Their main complaints are that:

- Social workers' training is far too theoretical.
- Students are given too little instruction in such subjects as general law and administration, juvenile and social aid legislation and laws concerning health assistance, marriage and the family.
- This training misleads students as to the "duties, bearing and loyalties of an employee of the communal administrative system."
- It leads to mistaken ideas as to a social worker's duties and lack of identification with the value to society of social work.

The paper proposes that the amount of sociology, psychology and politics on the three-year long course be reduced

DIE ZEIT

and replaced by more legal and administrative training.

"Many trained social workers work their way up in social work despite rather than because of their training" says Bernhard Hoppe, permanent deputy to the Federal convention of municipal authorities.

He went on to say, "We want a training programme that will produce neither young ideologists, nor complex-ridden youngsters out to change the world, nor revolutionaries."

But those under fire are not taking such taunts lying down. They are not prepared to accept that social workers are not being trained adequately for the practical side of their jobs.

"The Federal Association of Rural and Uraban authorities will have to back up its complaints with direct proof and instances where the training has not been adequate, says Rolf Depner, sociologist at Siegen University. "Such assertions are totally inconclusive without the backing of a representative survey."

Friedrich Lange, lecturer at the Reutlingen training college seconds this. "The motives behind this apparent attempt on the Association's part to make social workers' training more political in nature are particularly dubious."

Since then college lecturers and students have begun to wonder if the Cologne Association is not perhaps more interested in having social workers as administrative staff to cope with social cases instead of also being there to try to iron out the social causes and circumstances behind the cases.

After all, it would be cheaper for taxpayers to pay for measures which will help children from disturbed families, rather then to simply stick them into special homes.

But without sufficient understanding of the social problems involved – which students can gain in part from sociology lectures – a social worker is not in a position to do this.

The Federal Association of Rural and Urban Authorities has timed its attack to perfection. It is not by chance that it coincides with the particularly bad situation on the labour market for social workers.

Formerly social workers employers – namely towns, municipalities, and organisations such as Caritas, the Red Cross and the Church – were glad to get any staff they could in the way of social workers. Now, however the situation has changed radically and they can take their pick.

According to a survey carried out by the Federal Society for Employment in July last year the number of unemployed people in the social and welfare sector has almost doubled within a year. The figure lies at around 1,030.

The main reason is that, although universities have continued to increase their intake of students for social sciences municipal authorities and social organisations have cut back on their intake of trained social workers.

And the situation is not likely to improve. As from this summer a decision reached by the state ministers of education will come into effect which will make it considerably harder for training college graduates to study further at universities.

So those now affected by this change have been made very uncertain of their future position. Their continous efforts to help those at a social disadvantage – foreign workers, the homeless, large families and ex-prisoners are suffering greatly as a result of pressure to adapt and to compete with other students. And yet these are the people least to blame for the present situation.

Dieter Greese, business manager of a juvenile assistance association, comprising a number of youth aid societies and authorities, says, "The training situation is in absolute chaos at the moment. And this goes not only for social workers as such, but also all the other associated occupations that are constantly opening up. And social workers are having to compete with all sorts of other competitors in the field, many of whom have university qualifications."

But it is not only that social workers' training courses at training colleges lack a well-defined "image" and a definite goal. The muddle extends to include the actual teaching matter and the qualifications system. In some states only "social workers" are trained, while in others students are trained to be "social workers and social work teachers.

In most states the year-long practical training in social work which these students are obliged to do si simply tagged on at the end of their formal training. But in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg this is integrated in the main course – the so-called one-phase training. So students in these two states can apply for grants for the practical part of their training.

Regulations concerning the start of courses also vary considerably. While some universities take in students only once a year others start new courses twice yearly.

Recently several towns and districts have started employing only graduates from "their" local training colleges, which also worsens the situation.

Nevertheless employers and lecturers are agreed on two points at least: the present system should at last be reviewed and thoroughly discussed. In North Rhine-Westphalia a systematic analysis has already been started.

And furthermore a return to the old, purely practical training scheme is more or less out of the question.

"It is no secret" says Herr Happe, "that we were against bringing in training colleges and felt that university qualification were better. But these times are past."

Peter Marchal

(Die Zeit, 11 February 1977)

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here have private contracts with the hospitals where they work.

British doctors can set up practice as and when they like in this country, but it is almost impossible for doctors here to set up practice in Britain because they would have to work for the state.

Up to now most foreign doctors in this country have worked in hospitals. Of the 123,000 doctors in this country 8,560 are from abroad – not counting those working in research and administration.

Only about a thousand foreign doctors have been granted permission to open private practices in the Federal Republic, and most of these have worked in medical fields in which not enough doctors in this country were interested.

Now all they need is the nationality of one of the EEC states and medical qualifications from an EEC country.

Doctors coming here from other countries are checked only for their "state of health and medical ability".

The only practical difficulty doctors from other countries are likely to experience will be through their – for this country – strange sounding letters and medical titles. In this respect they may have a certain amount of prejudice to cope with.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 10 February 1977)

University entrance test plan for medicine, dentistry

School-leavers who want to study medicine or dentistry may have to sit a university entrance test in addition to their *Abitur*, their advanced school-leaving examination as from 1978.

This extra selection procedure is to be introduced for all subjects where old selection procedures are no longer adequate to cope with the number of university applicants.

"Legislation concerning university entrance procedures has laid down that a new selction procedure be introduced for subjects which are in particularly high demand," says Hamburg education senator Günter Apel.

"Hamburg will do all it can during discussions to introduce a satisfactory replacement to the old selection procedure."

A test has been devised by a Mannheim institute under the direction of professor of Psychology Lothar Michel since 1976. Now education ministers of the eleven states in the Federal Republic are due to decide this summer whether or not it should be used.

If it is introduced students will then be admitted to university not only on the strength of these test results, but also their *Abitur* marks.

Hamburg school inspector Dr Hans-Peter Jorzick has assessed the new test for the university education selection committees. In his report he warns that the test should not be extended over a lengthy period since this would place too much pressure on schools.

"In my report I have tried to suggest what effects this test could have on schools," he says.

In his opinion the test should only be sat during the last semester at school because "the oral examinations for the *Abitur* are held immediately before the final deadline for refusals for admission to the university by the Central University Admissions Board in Dortmund on 15 June so that school children can use their last semester at school to improve their marks. Time would be too short to hold the test after the children have finished school."

Dr Jorzick is well aware of the extent of psychological pressure this extra test would put on pupils. For this reason he strongly recommends that it be introduced only for university courses that are permanently filled to overflowing.

He also points out that there is a certain danger that parents might start demanding that schools give their children extra tuition specially for the test.

"To avoid this the tests must be continually reviewed and changed. All the same, it is obvious that certain test techniques can be practised."

Dr Jorzick furthermore points out that, with time, such a test will no longer be effective. He is nevertheless convinced that under the circumstances universities have no option but to introduce such a selection test.

There is still some question as to what stance Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein will adopt towards the test. But official sources have indicated that in Lower Saxony the trial tests that have been carried out so far have not been viewed disfavourably.

And in Schleswig-Holstein a government spokesman announced recently in Kiel that although a final decision has not yet been reached the view chiefly cited in discussions so far is that "it would be advisable to introduce a test for some subjects in conjunction with the *Abitur*."

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 8 February 1977)

■ BONN

Top politicians have usually held responsible positions, survey shows

Top politicians rarely start off their political careers as shining lights of political youth organisations. Almost without exception they make their way up the ladder via executive posts in local, municipal and district party organisations.

Only a very few manage to leap directly into a top-notch political position directly from private occupations. But practically all leading politicians have had positions of some responsibility whether in industry, the civil service or associations.

This is the gist of an analysis of the careers of 124 top politicians in this country which has been carried out by Professor Dietrich Herzog in the Department of Sociological Research of the Free University, Berlin.

Government members, parliamentary secretaries of state, party leaders and business managers, members of the Bundestag, its committees, working groups and senior functionaries were among those included in the survey.

It is surprising how long they spend in their starting positions in their parties. Most of them spend between eight and ten years workig in local and district



government posts. In extreme cases this can even extend to as much as 23 years.

Normally top politicians join their party either during further educations (this is more common among Social Democrats) or when firmly established in a private career (Christian Democratic and Christian Social politicians). In 89 of the 124 careers examined, politicians acquired their first party office within two years of joining the party.

Ninety per cent of top politicians start their political careers after finishing their education. Fifty per cent of SPD top politicians have had a university education, and as many as 75 per cent of CDU/CSU politicians have been to university.

Well over half those interviewed say they were not unduly influenced politically by their parents, and seriously turned their attention to politics only when they had already launched themselves satisfactorily in another career.

Herr Herzog notes that for most of these politicians, politics was merely a sideline interest to start with, but gradually came to occupy all their time to the exclusion of any other work.

Sixty-five per cent say they switched over completely to politics only after first being elected to the Bundestag. A further 23 per cent made the change on becoming party officials.

Most politicians start their professional political career during their forties. And 38 per cent started after this.

Surprisingly enough motives for starting a political career are, for the majority of top politicians, non-political. The three most common reasons are "I wanted a change", "Friends persuaded me", and "A vacancy happened to come up."

Politicians practical experience and position in the party is often strengthened by their having or having had posts in local government. Approximately every other interviewed politician had gained experience in this way.

Herr Herzog stresses that it is important to hold a number of different offices in various fields of activity in order to have a successful political career.

Very few politicians spend much time in state government offices, and they are generally then only regarded as a temporary stopping-off phase on the way to the top.

The study reveals that by no means few poeple — particularly women — leap into top political positions straight from leading jobs in other professions.

In all nine per cent of all those interviewed had made their start this way. But counting those who dabbled in politics on the side at an earlier stage, as many as 23 per cent entered the political scene this way.

Prior to going into politics 37 per cent of politicians were civil servants and 22 per cent worked in industry. The third largest group comprises white collar workers in various associations and organisations.

For journalists times have changed and now only seven per cent leave their jobs in favour of politics.

Only two per cent of leading politicians are former blue collar workers. But even among white collar workers and civil servants only those in middle and upper positions go into politics as a rule.

According to Herr Herzog the reasons for this are the hierarchical structure of companies and most organisations, the varying demands of different jobs and the varying nature of the work people do. This includes considerations such as whether people are working with other people or with things or whether they are working with their heads or doing routine manual work.

Dr Renate I. Mreschar

(Nordwest Zeitung, 5 February 1977)

Secret list shows how often politicians appear in the media

Half Bonn is hot on the trail of a study which lists how offen ministers and MPs are mentioned in mass media.

The study has been compiled by head of the Bundestag Information Service Walter Keim and three assistants. But at the moment it is one of the capital's most closely-guarded-documents.

It contains only seven pages of text, three of diagrams and an appendix and as such could yet become Bonn's shortest bestseller. At present Cabinet members, Ministry spokesmen, Bundestag MPs and journalists are going berserk trying to get hold of it.

Telephones are ringing almost non-stop in Walter Keim's office. But all in vain. For now anyway his lips are firmly sealed.

The whole business started when a few figures — but no names — became publicly known. "Since then Bonn's been buzzing with the million dollar question 'Where do I come on the list?' " says Herr Keim.

So far it is known that 23 Bonn MPs are non-existent as far as the press is concerned. They are never mentioned in inter-regional newspapers.

At the other end of the scale there are five MPs — one of whom is a woman — whose names have appeared in the press no less than two thousand times.

The information in the study comes from 79,175 press clippings from 116 domestic and foreign daily and weekly newspapers and from 46 information services.

In all only 88 politicians were mentioned more than 200 times. That is under twenty per cent. Only 26 MPs' names were printed 501 to 2,000 times, 57 were mentioned between 201 and 500 times, forty between 101 and 200 and 137 were given a mention 31 to a hundred times.

Women MPs scored well. Apparently, as Herr Keim suggests, "the few women that make the grade in Bonn are generally fairly well known already."

The study omits to mention, however, whether MPs owe their fame to political work or to a flair for publicity — whether they are serious politicians or simply exhibitionists.

But often how well a politician is known is less an indication of his industriousness as of his position in a party. Herr Keim points out "It's all laid down who can expound to whom in parliament, when and about what." Government members and party leaders obviously have the best end of the deal here.

Other things have to be considered too. For instance the file of press clippings for Free Democrat MP Ingried Matthaeus, a newcomer to the Bundestag, swelled out of all proportions simply because she wanted to have her husband as her assistant.

And the press was likewise inordinately interested in Christian Social member Erich Riedl not because of his political achievements but because he is president of the Munich 1860 Football Club.

Christian Democrat Hans Stercken admits openly that his public appearance during a carnival when the "Order of the Clown" was being presented saved him a year's publicity work.

There are enough other such examples. Conrad Ahrens, formerly head of the Federal Press Office now Social Democrat MP has never opened his mouth in a Bundestag plenary session, but has said enough in articles in a number of pulications to have earned himself a fair amount of popularity and support.

Herr Keim and his assistants are aware that their list leaves something to be desired, and for this reason they intend to carry on with their project in greater detail.

They are starting on a study of whether the five politicians most often in the press are the chief speakers in the Bundestag.

They are also interested to find out how many MPs have become publicly known through their party press office.

But despite all the secrecy it is no secret in Bonn who is most often in the public eye. The woman MP most often in the papers is Annemarie Renger.

Among SPD members Helmut Schmidt, Willy Brandt and Herbert Wehner take the lead. And on the other side of the floor only CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss was in the papers more than two thousand times.

Margret Kämpf

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 14 February 1977)

■ SPORT

'Sport for All' is still Willi Weyer's main aim

Even if Willi Weyer had become president of the Federal Sports Association in name only and had done nothing else, sport in this country would still have been a lot better off than before.

It is three years since he took over as president, but there are still some "well informed" circles that cannot for the life of them think what could have made him take such a step.

He was North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of the Interior and vice premier, a leading figure in party politics, one of the founders of the social-liberal coalition — in short in the full flush of his political career.

But it was only when he made this apparently light-headed move that a lot of people began to realise the importance of sport.

When Herr Weyer — who incidentally was once a water-polo goalie for the Sports Association — appeared on the sport scene a lot of doors started opening that had previously always been very tightly shut.

Suddenly politicians could no longer ignore sport or its demands. It was all at once something to be reckoned with; an organisation that was aware of its own worth and power.

Socially and politically Herr Weyer blasted his way through the world of sport after being elected in a way that left more than a few people used to the tentative pussy footing of Daume and Kregel standing open-mouthed.

In the meantime the pace has cooled somewhat. The tension and pressure that all the top people in sport are subjected to told even on "Big Willi".

He did not always come out of the jungle of conflicting interests, aims, theories and jealousy without a scratch. But he has stuck at the job — which offers no executive scope at all — for all he is worth. And he has not given up yet, hard though it may be. Recently he said he would be running for Sports Association president again in 1978.

"Sport for all" is what he is and has been fighting for all the way. But despite untiring efforts it is proving extremely difficult to achieve this.

The Federal Sports Association, and indeed the country as a whole is still far too preoccupied with training top class sportsmen for the Olympics and other international games.

Under these circumstances he will have to watch out that he does not develop into a mere theoretician and lose his practical insight into sport. And what better wishes could the fourteen million-odd people in his Association have for him now on his sixtieth birthday?

On his birthday Federal President Walter Scheel, Bundestag president Karl Carstens, vice-chancellor Hans-Dietrich Genscher and a stately number of Minister from Bonn will be helping him celebrate in the Düsseldorf Congress Hall.

Ludwig Dotzert

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 February 1977)



Willi Weyer

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Edgar Reitz' film

Continued from page 11

ple's memories over things that they are all too apt to forget.

This is also the reason why the film contains so many cliches and stereotype figures. For each individual filmgoer these bring back personal memories and experiences.

Reitz may well have underestimated the dangers of such a method. And public reaction in Frankfurt shows how easily this can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstandings. *Gisela Molitor*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 February 1977)

Films now admissible evidence at soccer tribunals

The furore stirred up by the Federal Football Association (DFB) tribunal's verdict on the clash between Cologne's Heinz Flohe and Essen's Werner Lorant during the League match on 22 January has finally been settled.

The tribunal, chaired by Dr Rückert reversed its original decision after the appeal hearing a few days ago. It banned Lorant from playing in three matches, and confirmed the original sentence passed on Flohe, who was banned for four matches.

Originally, on 31 January Lorant was cleared of blame. But at that time the tribunal based its decision on the evidence of a TV film of the match between FC Cologne and Rot-Weiss Essen. The referes' views were not given precedence.

Now, this revised verdict will mean a permanent change in regulations for dealing with such cases.

Heinz Flohe is the only one who has taken the tribunal's second decision with anything like equanimity.

Werner Lorant's terse view was that "It's utterly ludicrous." And his advocate Alfred Kohlmann (Essen) was similarly dissatisfied.

Although referees' powers and authority have been more or less restored by the second verdict they, and DFB supervisory committee chairman Hans Kindermann', are likely to find it hard to take.

For the Federal Court has now backed up the tribunal's decision that TV films shot by ARD and ZDF — the first and second TV broadcasting organisations — are admissible evidence in sport cases.

But the Federal Court also took into account the point made by Rudi Michel, head of ARD sport, south-west division, that films are not three dimensional and therefore could not give conclusive evidence. It decreed that "the human eye" — that is the ref — has the last word where possible.

Nevertheless films have not been so emphatically discredited as evidence as DFB publicity officer Dr Gerhardt suggested when he said "This verdict has effectively prevented the referees' authority being compromised."

Flohe and Lorant have only the films — which, incidentally the Federal Court saw four times — to thank for the fact that Kindermann, who wanted to have all films excluded from proceedings, and the referees, did not succeed in getting the court to accept their accusation of violence.

Nevertheless on the field the ref's word will still be final for the vast majority of decisions, as the Federal Court stressed.

Norbert Hausmahn

(Die Welt, 16 February 1977)

Federal ice hockey trainer Xaver Unsinn quits

Xaver Unsinn is chucking his job as trainer for the Federal Ice Hockey Association (DEB). His successor is to be 45-year old Hans Rampf. During the time he has worked with the national team 42-year old Unsinn has brought it to an all-time peak.

It won an Olympic Bronze in Innsbruck and qualified at the last minute for the A-Group world championship in Kattowitz.

Unsinn himself gained unexpected popularity among both players and public. But unfortunately he was not so well-loved by the Association, and he crossed swords on several occasions with various functionaries who stood in the way of his plans for reforms.

His success with the team made it a lot easier for him to get a number of his demands accepted. But in the end he perhaps overestimated his power when he said he would resign if the Association did not reverse its decision over Berlin SC. (A 5:2 victory against Cologne was changed afterwards to 0:5).

This was the opportunity his enemies had been waiting for. They called his bluff and he packed his bags.

Rampf is a former player for the national team and, with 101 national games behinghim, is one of the best-known German players.

Faced with the challenge of seeing to it that the national team stays where it is, his job would undoubtedly have been a great deal easier if some of the best players on the team had not said they would not play for the DEB again if Unsinn left.

Erich Weishaupt for one, certainly one of the best ice hockey players this country has, has already announced his "thousand per cent definite 'No' to any further invitations to play."

Xaver Unsinn (Photo: Sven Simon)

"It's no cushy inheritance I'm getting, but I'm not crawling to anyone," is Hans Rampf's determined attitude to this. And he has a reputation for not being afraid of hard work or trouble.

In 1960 he left Bavaria and turned up in the Düsseldorf ice hockey club. A year later Düsseldorf beat Bavaria for the first time for fifteen years.

In no time he cleaned up the DEB team, swept aside internal differences and got it on its feet in fighting spirit. He was no less successful when he became permanent coach for the DEB juniors.

At the last junior world championship the Federal Republic reached sixth place and even against the USSR they lost by only 1:2.

Things could go either way for German ice hockey from now on. The Vienna world championship could continue the upwards trend of the last few years. On the other hand it could be the start of a new and deeper fall than before.

As captain Alois Schloder put it, "In Vienna we can't afford to sit back after beating Roumania only twice and staying in the A-Group." *W. Niersbach*

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 14 February 1977)